

STONE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk

Les Trigg

Tel: 01785 619740

Fax: 01785 619741

15 Station Road
STONE
ST15 8JP

25 August, 2017

A meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** will be held in the **Christchurch Suite at Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER** at **7:05pm** or on the rising of the Council Meeting if later.

I trust you will be able to attend.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Requests for Dispensations Received**
4. **To receive the report of the County Councillors**
 - County Councillor Mrs J Hood
 - County Councillor I Parry
5. **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
6. **To consider the Minutes and recommendations of the undermentioned Committees:**
 - a) Tourism and Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on 18 July, 2017 Minute Number TTP18/009 – TTP18/015 (attached)
 - i. To consider the minutes
 - ii. To consider the Recommendations contained in Minute Numbers TTP18/013, TTP18/014

- b) Estates Sub-Committee held on 15 August, 2017 Minute Numbers EST18/007 – EST18/012 (attached)
 - i. To consider the minutes
 - ii. To consider the Recommendations contained in Minute Number EST18/010
 - iii. To consider the Recommendations contained in Minute Number EST18/011 together with updated papers relating to the hire of the Frank Jordan Centre from the Town Clerk (attached)
- 7. **To consider the Notes of the undermentioned Steering Committees:**
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings held on 5 July, 2017 and 2 August, 2017
- 8. **Stone Neighbourhood Plan**
To approve the final versions of the Neighbourhood Plan prior to submission to Stafford Borough Council (attached).

These copies may be updated at the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting on 30 August 2017. If so, any amendments will be reported at the meeting.

- 9. **Data Protection Policy**
To receive the report of the Town Clerk (attached)
- 10. **Budget Monitoring – June 2017**
To receive the report of the Town Clerk (attached)
- 11. **Circulation of large reports with meeting papers**
To consider whether large papers should be circulated to Members by email only, rather than printed and enclosed with the agenda
- 12. **Subsidised Bus Review Consultation**
To consider a Staffordshire County Council consultation outlining four potential options to provide subsidised bus travel in the County in 2018/19

A copy of a letter from the County Council, the consultation document and a blank consultation response form are attached. Full details can be found at:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview

- 13. **Stafford Borough Local Plan Review**
Stafford Borough Council is currently reviewing its Local Plan. This review will, in time, replace the adopted Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2031 and the Plan for Stafford Borough Part 2. Currently the Borough is consulting on the 'Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report' as part of the review.

A copy of a letter from the Borough Council, the report and the consultation response form are attached. Further details can be obtained at:

<http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/local-plan-review->

14. **Consultation on the future of joint governance of the Police and the Fire and Rescue Services in Staffordshire**
To consider a response to the public consultation of the Police and Crime Commissioner of Staffordshire.

A copy of the options, frequently asked questions and the business case summary are attached. Links to further information are contained within these papers.
15. **To consider a request from the Richard Vernon Trust to adopt a bench**
To consider adopting a proposed new bench for siting in St Michael and St Wulfad Church grounds.
16. **Canal & River Trust – Canal Adoption Meeting**
The Canal & River Trust operate a scheme whereby local groups can ‘adopt’ a stretch of the canal and work together to look after its appearance. A request has been received for the Council to be represented at a meeting of local organisations to consider this scheme. Use of the Council Chamber for the meeting has also been requested.

The Committee is asked to consider whether the Council should be represented, who any representative(s) should be, and whether the meeting can be held in the Council Chamber.
17. **Stone Town Council Representative on Walton Community Association (Stone) Ltd**
To report that no response had been received to the Council’s letter at the date of preparing this agenda. Should a response be received, it will be circulated at the meeting
18. **Non Cheque Payments**
To receive a list of non-cheque payments made by the Council during the period 1 April to 30 June 2017.
19. **Update from Working Groups:**
 - a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
 - b) To determine Protocol for Marking the Death of the Sovereign or other members of the Royal Family
20. **Members’ Motions under Standing Order 4**

Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Stone residents are being ignored by HS2, who once again have refused to bring the HS2 2a: consultation to Stone which is the second largest settlement within the borough and will be hugely impacted upon by the Railhead Compound, which originally billed as temporary, is now being described as permanent.

HS2 state that hundreds of heavy goods vehicles (one per minute) will travel down Yarnfield Lane heading north and south throughout the day and night. The impact on Stone will be chaos as the A34 and Yarnfield Lane tries to cope with the volume of backed up traffic with no planned changes by Highways to the Wayfarer junction. We also have to consider light pollution from the compound across the town and the welfare of Walton residents who will suffer sleep deprivation due to construction noise. Dust will threaten

the health of many of those residents with breathing conditions. I ask Stone Town council to consider their support of the Stone Railhead Crisis Group in their alternative plan to re-site the compound.

21. To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council

Stone ATC – Mayor and Cllr M. Green

Age Concern Stone & District – Cllrs: Mrs K. Green and Mrs C. Collier

Stone Town Band – Mayor

Walton Community Centre – Cllr M. Green

Stafford & Stone Access Group – Cllr Mrs C. Collier

Stone Common Plot Trustees – Cllrs: M. Shaw, G. Collier, Mrs J. Hood and R. Kenney

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group – Cllrs: Mrs J. Farnham, M. Green, A. Osgathorpe, Mrs J. Hood and R. Kenney

SPCA Executive Committee – Cllr M. Williamson

22. 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

23. To consider the Minutes and recommendations of the undermentioned Committee:

- a) Estates Sub-Committee Meeting held on 15 August, 2017 Confidential Minute Number EST18/013 (attached)

24. Computer Support Contract

To consider the report of the Town Clerk (attached)

25. Debt Recovery

To consider the report of the Town Clerk (attached)

Members of the public are welcome to attend the General Purposes Meeting as observers.

Stone Town Council – Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in Stone Station Community Centre on Tuesday 18 July, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor I Fordham in the Chair and
Councillors: Mrs J. Hood, P. Leason, Mrs K. Green, Mrs J. Piggott and Mrs C.
Collier.

Co-opted Member: Mr J. Heal

ABSENT: Councillor M. Williamson

TTP18/009 **Apologies**

Councillor M. Williamson

TTP18/010 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**

None received

TTP18/011 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received

TTP18/012 **Train Service - To Receive Updates**

Jon Heal provided an update on train services in Stone.

The Department for Transport has not yet announced which company will be running the franchise – Govia/London Midland or Abellis.

London Midland will be carrying on a little longer, to next February at least. The reason for the delay in making an appointment is not known but London Midland are having a meeting on Thursday 27 July 2017 (Stone Station Community centre) and anyone with an interest is welcome to attend.

HS2 are consulting on the Birmingham to Crewe route and a number of others.

The Town Clerk advised that the materials supporting the Parliamentary Bill for Phase 2a of HS2 had been received at the Town Council offices (today) and a computer is expected tomorrow for the electronic deposit of the Bill material. This address will be the formal deposit location for the parish (to be listed in the newspaper and other notices relating to the bill and appear on the gov.uk website).

* 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.

The issue of the rail head was raised and the Town Council will need to consider its approach to the consultation once the opportunity is available.

The train service update was noted.

The Chairman advised that he wished to change the order of listing for the remaining items on the agenda.

TTP18/013 Stone Town Centre Development Strategy

The Sub-Committee considered a Development Strategy paper* prepared by the Chairman, Councillor Fordham (which had also been distributed to local business in the town).

The purpose of this document is to recommend a set of strategies and supporting actions that can be used over time by all stakeholders to support the development of the Town Centre. The broad strategy is to build on the positives of Stone as a town and to address any drawbacks with the aim of increasing footfall.

The primary role of Stone Town Council should be to co-ordinate an overall strategy; encourage improvements in infrastructure; develop and promote Town Centre attractions, encourage the local business community initiatives, help broker agreements between third parties; and offer practical advice and support whenever possible.

The key strategies are: to improve the appearance and environment, strengthen events and attractions, improve shop/business frontages and strengthen business promotion.

A Town Centre Partnership Steering Committee is suggested as a vehicle for considering initiatives which shops and other businesses can use to increase footfall in the Town Centre and directly encourage an increase in trade.

Councillor Fordham was congratulated on producing an extremely comprehensive and well written document.

RECOMMENDED: That the draft Stone Town Centre Development Strategy be formally accepted by Stone Town Council.

As part of the Strategy two Working Groups would be set up:

- Group 1: Appearance and Environment; and
- Group 2: Events and Attractions

The following Members expressed an interest in joining Group 1: Appearance and Environment: Councillors: I. Fordham, R. Kenney and P. Leason.

RECOMMENDED: That Thomas Kelt is co-opted to Group 1: Appearance and Environment.

* 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.

The following Members expressed an interest in joining Group 2: Events and Attractions: Councillors: I. Fordham, R. Kenney, Mrs J. Hood and J. Davies.

RECOMMENDED: That Tony Hollinshead is co-opted to Group 2: Strengthen Events and Attractions.

It was agreed that the Chairman and Town Clerk jointly consider the best method to approach Town Centre businesses in order to move the strategy forward.

TTP18/014 **Update from Working Group**

Town Guide Working Group

Councillor Mrs Hood reported that progress was being made although there has been an issue with the selling of advertising. After negotiations, it has been decided to appoint another supplier. The group will be meeting within the next month to consider the document.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Guide Working Group be incorporated into the Events and Attractions Group (Group 2).

The Town Clerk advised that, as the two groups had a different membership, it would be necessary to determine the membership of the new combined group, but that this could be done at the next General Purposes Committee meeting.

Working Group for Marking the Death of the Sovereign or Royalty

Councillor Davies reported that a meeting would be called within the next month to consider a protocol.

Commemoration to Mark 100 years since the end of World War 1 in 2018

Councillor Mrs Hood advised that arrangements are going well. She informed the group that a War Bride production, enacted by pupils of Christchurch Academy, would take place on 14 September 2017.

Council Website – tourism information

RECOMMENDED: That the General Purposes Committee, consider incorporating this group with the Development Strategy Group 2: Events and Attractions.

The Town Clerk again advised that, due to differences in current membership, the make-up of the new, combined Events and Attractions Working Group would need to be determined, but this could be done at the next General Purposes Committee meeting.

* 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.

TTP18/015 **Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute**

The Sub-Committee considered a letter from the Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils advising that 1000 beacons will be lit across the UK at 7pm on 11 November 2018 as a national commemoration in remembrance of the end of World War 1 and the many millions who were killed and wounded. Stone Town Council are asked to take part in the event.

Councillor Leason advised that a report, being considered by the PCC when they next meet, had recommended (as desirable) the removal of a beacon located at the top of St Michael's tower. The Rector will be recommending that the report is noted, but not that the beacon is removed.

It was agreed that this item be brought back to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee, when the position should be clearer.

Town Mayor

Stone Town Council – Estates Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in Stone Station Community Centre, Station Approach, Stone on Tuesday 15 August 2017

PRESENT: Councillor M. Green in the Chair and
Councillors Mrs J. Hood, Mrs E. Mowatt, Mrs J. Farnham, T. Jackson and G. Collier

By Chairman's invitation: Councillors Mrs K. Green, M. Williamson (to agenda item 5), Mrs M. Goodall (to agenda item 5), G. Neagus, C. Collier, M. Shaw (to agenda item 5), R. Kenny, J. Davies, Mrs J. Piggott and A. Osgathorpe

ABSENT: Councillors: I. Fordham and P. Leason

EST18/007 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor I. Fordham

EST18/008 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received.

EST18/009 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received.

EST18/010 **Parking in Market Square**

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee of renewed concerns that Market Square is regularly being used for vehicular parking during the evenings. Photographs were circulated* showing an instance where several cars were parked at one time, creating the appearance of a car park.

The Sub-Committee considered options that may be effective in preventing and deterring the future parking of vehicles in Market Square and these included: installing a barrier such as a bollard, use of wheelclamping, fixed and mobile signage and other forms of temporary barrier/obstruction. It was acknowledged that there is a need to ensure that access remains available to emergency services and for the delivery of goods and services to the businesses surrounding the Square.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk suggests to The Lounge that configuration of the external seating area is changed to a position which runs across the front of Market Square (rather than parallel and adjoining the elevations of the shop).

* 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.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk investigate the purchase of moveable A-board style 'No Parking' signs, which could if agreeable, be held by the Crown and The Lounge.

RECOMMENDED: That prior to these actions, businesses are informed of the Town Council's intentions to deal with the issue and are given an opportunity to make comments.

EST18/011 Frank Jordan Centre Operating Arrangements

Councillor Kenney updated Members on the refurbishment of the Frank Jordan Centre.

The project is expected to be finished at the end of next week which will be ahead of schedule. Built in appliances have been installed in the kitchen and the internal doors have been upgraded to beech veneer. The floor in St Michael's Suite has been refurbished to a very high standard.

Savings have been made on the costs of the project. The final project underspending will be reported to Members once available.

Councillor Kenney was thanked for overseeing the project.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that, before the Frank Jordan Centre reopens, Stone Town Council should consider how it will be operated in the future to ensure that the significant sum of money spent on refurbishment is protected and not wasted.

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk on the Frank Jordan Centre Operating Arrangements*.

The report looks at:

- Upgrading of CCTV
- The purchase of new tables and chairs
- Usage, including the purposes to which the different areas of the Centre can be used and proposing a new usage agreement which hirers would be expected to sign and abide by
- Pricing, including a review of charges at the Centre

Upgrading of CCTV

The Town Clerk informed the Sub-Committee that the existing CCTV system is outdated and asked that consideration is given to its replacement with a digital multi camera system with ability to capture images at full HD. Installation of a broadband internet line would allow for remote monitoring and use of the internet at the Centre. It may also allow wi-fi to be offered to hirers (subject to the appropriate safeguards).

* 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.

RECOMMENDED: To support the purchase of an updated CCTV system as set out in paragraphs 5 to 8 of the report at a cost of around £3,000, plus install broadband for monitoring and internet purposes at around £500 per annum, the cost to be met by a supplementary estimate from reserves.

Purchase of New tables and Chairs

The Sub-Committee was asked to consider the need to replace the existing worn and outdated furniture at the Frank Jordan Centre. The Town Clerk suggested metal framed chairs with fabric seating as a more comfortable alternative to the plastic chairs currently in use.

The advantages and disadvantages of solid and collapsing tables were considered and it was decided that collapsing tables would be lighter, more versatile and reduce the risk of damage to the floor.

Alternative uses for the old furniture were explored along with possible ways in which this could be disposed of through donation. It was suggested that the furniture could be offered to local community groups. Other potential uses of the furniture by the Town Council were also identified (external use of plastic chairs). It was recognised that storage of the items was an issue.

The purchase of a large pull-down white screen to aid the delivery of presentations and to provide the opportunity for cinema/film shows was suggested as a valuable addition that would broaden opportunities for use of the Centre.

RECOMMENDED: That suitable new furniture is purchased for the Frank Jordan Centre – 20 tables and 60 chairs (and potentially a trolley) – as set out in paragraph 9 to 11 of the Report. This would be funded from the £3,500 already available in the budget, plus any underspending for the building project, if necessary.

RECOMMENDED: That a number of existing plastic chairs be retained for future use by the Town Council and wider community, and that the Town Clerk be authorised to use his discretion in disposing of (by gift) the remaining furniture and piano.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk investigate the costs of purchasing a screen (for aiding the delivery of presentations and cinema/film).

Centre Usage

The Sub-Committee considered replacement of the current terms and conditions for hire of the Centre with a set of revised terms presented in Appendix 2 of the report. An updated Hire Agreement would be drawn up to comply with the revised terms and conditions.

* 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.

The Sub-Committee agreed that uses which adversely affect the fabric and ongoing cleanliness of the Centre should be eliminated where possible. All instructions for use of the building must therefore be expressly stated within the terms and conditions to ensure they are clear and recognised by the hirer as their responsibility (and must also make sure their users comply with the rules). Risks accepted by Stone Town Council and those passed on to the hirer should also be clearly defined.

RECOMMENDED: That the Terms and Conditions of Hire as stated in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved with the following amendments:

- Bicycles, skateboards, roller skates and scooters would not be permitted into the building (Condition 4: Use of Premises)
- Modes of transport for babies, children and the disabled such as prams, pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters will be permitted into the building. Appropriate items will require designated positioning/storing when inside to ensure that transference of dirt on wheels is minimised and escape routes and access points are kept clear at all times (Condition 7: Public Safety Compliance (7.2c.))
- No animals will be allowed into the building except guide and hearing dogs (Condition 19: Animals)
- A section to regulate how the kitchen should be used specifically. This should include a requirement for the kitchen to be left as it was found, and that damage caused by hirers (and their users) would be paid for
- Outbreak of fire should also include flood (Condition 9: Outbreak of Fire)
- Affixing decorations, signs, notices and other displays to walls will not be permitted at any time. There will be no opportunity to request written permission (Condition 16: Decorations and Displays (16.1))

RECOMMENDED: That the revised Terms and Conditions for Hire and usage of the Centre as set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 of the report (including the above revisions), will apply to all users, to include existing and new.

Review of Charges

The Sub-Committee considered the existing charging structure at the sites managed by the Town Council in light of the modernised facilities now available at the Frank Jordan Centre. Charges have reflected the differences in the quality of the facilities compared with others in the town. There are also a range of historic agreements for existing regular users relating to both the usage of facilities and charges made.

RECOMMENDED: That the revisions to Centre charges for new and existing users

* 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.

are supported, and the review of current discount and usage arrangements, as set out in paragraphs 15 to 20 of the report are approved.

RECOMMENDED: That the GP meeting to be held on 5 September 2017 be held in the Christ Church Suite and that Members take an opportunity to view the refurbished Centre before the meeting starts at 7pm.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair of the General Purposes Committee and Chairman of the Estates Committee determine a date for re-opening and the details for the event. This will include an invitation to the daughters of Frank Jordan.

EST18/012 Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

RESOLVED: to exclude Press and Public from the next item of business.

EST18/013 Frank Jordan Centre – Caretaking and Cleaning

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk on Cleaning and Caretaking, the purpose of which is to determine the arrangements for caretaking and cleaning at the Frank Jordan Centre when it re-opens following refurbishment.

RECOMMENDED: To support the proposals set out in the Report and to authorise the Town Clerk to recruit to the post of Frank Jordan Centre Caretaker in accordance with the Council's staffing guidelines.

Town Mayor

* 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.

Application for Hire

Frank Jordan Centre



Name of hiring organisation or individual:	
Address:	Contact name:
	Contact telephone no:
	Contact email address:
Date of event:	Time required (including setting up and clearing away):
	From: To:
Purpose of hire and number of attendees expected:	
Room(s) required – please indicate specifically if use of kitchen facilities is needed:	
Will there be a charge made to people attending the event, or items sold at the event? If so, please provide details:	
Do you have any special requirements?	
By signing this form, you are agreeing to abide by the Council's terms and conditions of hire, that the form's contents may be made available to the public, and that the application and any communications relating to it may be stored in a computerised system. The person signing this document will be considered to be the lead hirer for the purposes of the terms and conditions. If submitting on behalf of an organisation, the signatory confirms that it is put forward with the full knowledge and approval of the submitting organisation.	Signed: Name: Position in organisation (if applicable):



Stone

Town Council

Date:

Ref:

Dear

Application to Hire the Frank Jordan Centre

Thank you for your request to hire facilities at the Frank Jordan Centre. Please complete and return the enclosed application form, and return it to me within 14 days together with your remittance to cover the total cost of £ . Please make cheques payable to Stone Town Council.

I have currently made a provisional booking for you, which will be held for 14 days pending receipt of your application. Please note:

1. All bookings are made on the basis of the enclosed terms and conditions. Please ensure that you understand them and will be able to comply with them prior to making your booking.
2. The provisional booking and price are based on information provided at the time that you contacted the Council. These will be reviewed and confirmed once the booking form has been returned.
3. If it proves necessary for you to cancel the event, 100% of your fee will be returned for a cancellation more than 90 days before the event date, or 50% for a cancellation 31 to 90 days before. No refund will be made for cancellation at 30 days' notice or less.
4. The time booked for the event should cover both setting up beforehand and clearing away afterwards. Access to the venue will not be available in advance of the booked start time. You, as hirer, are responsible for the premises for the duration of the booking, and as such should be on the premises for the whole time until the caretaker arrives to lock up.
5. The caretaker may be contacted on XXXXXXXXXXXX should there be any problems, or if the event finishes early, but no guarantee can be given that the caretaker will be able to attend the Centre at any time other than at the agreed start and end times of the booking.

If you have any queries, please contact Christine Parton on 01785 619740.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Parton
Assistant Town Clerk
Business & Finance

15 Station Road, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8JP
T: 01785 619743 F: 01785 619741 E: clerk@stonetowncouncil.org.uk

Frank Jordan Centre Terms and Conditions of Hire

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 These standard conditions apply to all hiring of the Frank Jordan Centre. If the Hirer is in any doubt as to the meaning of any items within this agreement, they should consult the Town Clerk, or their representative, prior to signing the hire agreement.

2 HIRER

- 2.1 "Hirer" shall mean an individual or where the Hirer is an organisation, the authorised representative.
- 2.2 The Hirer hereby accepts responsibility for being in charge of and on the premises at all times during the hire period and for ensuring that all conditions under this Agreement are met.
- 2.3 These conditions prohibit the hire of the Centre to anyone under the age of 21 years. An older person making a booking on behalf of someone younger than 21 years old must be aware of the responsibilities for which they will be liable.

3 SUPERVISION

- 3.1 The Hirer shall, during the period of the hiring, be responsible for: supervision of the premises, the fabric and the contents; their care, safety from damage however slight or change of any sort; and the behaviour of all persons using the premises whatever their capacity, including proper supervision of car parking arrangements and the prevention of obstruction to the highway.
- 3.2 The Hirer shall make good or pay for all damage (including accidental damage) to the premises or to the fixtures, fittings or contents and for loss of contents.

4 USE OF PREMISES

- 4.1 “Premises” refers to the Frank Jordan Centre building, its car park and other associated land and structures.
- 4.2 The Hirer shall not sub-hire the premises, nor use them for any purpose other than that described in the Hiring Agreement. The premises may not be used for any unlawful purpose or in any unlawful way. The Hirer shall not bring onto the premises anything which may endanger its lawful use or render invalid any insurance policies in place. In particular, the consumption of alcohol on the premises is specifically prohibited without the Council’s written permission.
- 4.3 Use of the Centre for any commercial purposes, even as part of an otherwise non-commercial booking, will only be permitted with the prior written consent of the Council.
- 4.4 The foyer area is not to be used for any purpose, other than as a means of access to the building, toilets and store room and, if specifically designated at the time of the booking, as an area for the storage of prams, pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters whilst not in use. The undertaking of any other activities in this area is strictly prohibited.
- 4.5 The Hirer may use the designated area of the car park, subject to there being suitable spaces available. Vehicles must only be parked in the designated area, and must not block access to other parts of the car park. The Hirer should note that the car park is locked each evening and at weekends. Vehicles that are not removed promptly following an event may be locked in until the Centre is next opened.
- 4.6 Bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, scooters and similar items are not permitted in the building at any time.
- 4.7 Use of the premises will only be permitted for the period specified in the Hiring Agreement (the “Hire Period”), which must include sufficient time for all “setting up” and “clearing up” activities.
- 4.8 The building should always be left as it was found. Any issues should be notified to the Council prior to the commencement of a booking. A charge will be made for work to return the building to the appropriate standard, if necessary. This includes, for example, cleaning, repairs and the replacement of damaged or missing items.
- 4.9 The Council reserves the right to refuse bookings where it believes that undue wear and tear may occur to the building or its fixtures, fittings or equipment.

5 KITCHEN AREAS AND EQUIPMENT

- 5.1 The Hirer accepts full liability for the use of the kitchen facilities and any/all consequences that may result from this use.
- 5.2 Kitchen facilities may only be used if agreed by the Council at the time of booking. The use may be subject to a deposit and charge separately from the hire of the room in accordance with the policy of the Council at the time of the booking.
- 5.3 The kitchen should always be left as it was found. Any issues should be notified to the Council prior to the commencement of a booking. A charge will be made for work to return the kitchen to the appropriate standard if necessary. This includes, for example, cleaning, repairs and the replacement of damaged or missing items.

6 CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV)

- 6.1 The Hirer notes that the premises, both internally and externally, are covered by CCTV and accepts that activities at the Centre are likely to be recorded. The Council will comply with data protection requirements in respect of personal data.

7 GAMING, BETTING AND LOTTERIES

- 7.1 The Hirer shall ensure that nothing is done on or in relation to the premises in contravention of the law relating to gaming, betting and lotteries.

8 LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

- 8.1 It is the Hirer's responsibility to establish whether any licences are required for their booking, and to ensure that they obtain all of the licences required. The Town Council will be unable to advise on licencing requirements, but can advise on any licences already held.

9 PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLIANCE

- 9.1 The Hirer shall comply with all conditions and regulations made in respect of the premises by the Local Authority, the Licensing Authority, the hall's Fire Risk Assessment or otherwise, particularly in connection with any event which constitutes regulated entertainment, at which alcohol is sold or provided or which is attended by children. The Hirer shall also comply with the hall's health and safety notices.

9.2 The Hirer acknowledges that they have received instruction in the following matters:

- a. The action to be taken in event of fire. This includes calling the Fire Brigade and evacuating the hall.
- b. The location and use of fire equipment.
- c. Escape routes and the need to keep them clear.
- d. Method of operation of escape door fastenings.
- e. Appreciation of the importance of any fire doors and of closing all fire doors at the time of a fire.

9.3 In advance of a booking the Hirer shall check the following items:

- a. That all fire exits are unlocked and panic bolts in good working order.
- b. That all escape routes are free of obstruction and can be safely used.
- c. That any fire doors are not wedged open.
- d. That exit signs are illuminated.
- e. That there are no obvious fire hazards on the premises.

9.4 Whilst modes of transport for babies, children and the disabled, such as prams, pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters will be permitted in the building, any items not in use will need to be stored in the designated location to ensure that escape routes are kept clear at all times.

10 MEANS OF ESCAPE

10.1 All means of exit from the premises must be kept free from obstruction and immediately available for instant free public exit.

10.2 The emergency lighting supply illuminating all exit signs and routes must be turned on during the whole of the time the premises are occupied (if not operated by an automatic mains failure switching device).

11 OUTBREAKS OF FIRE OR FLOOD

11.1 The Fire Brigade shall be called to any outbreak of fire or flood, and details thereof shall be given to the Town Council.

12 HEALTH AND HYGIENE

- 12.1 The Hirer shall, if preparing, serving or selling food, observe all relevant food health and hygiene legislation and regulations. In particular, dairy products, vegetables and meat on the premises must be refrigerated and stored in compliance with the Food Temperature Regulations. The premises are provided with a refrigerator.

13 ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE SAFETY

- 13.1 The Hirer shall ensure that any electrical appliances brought by them to the premises and used there shall be safe, in good working order, and used in a safe manner in accordance with current Electricity at Work Regulations. Where a residual circuit breaker is provided, the Hirer must make use of it in the interests of public safety.

14 INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY

- 14.1 The Hirer shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Town Council and each of its members, employees, volunteers, agents and invitees against:
- a. The cost of repair of any damage done to any part of the premises including the curtilage thereof or the contents of the premises
 - b. All claims, losses, damages and costs in respect of damage or loss of property or injury to persons arising as a result of the use of the premises (including the storage of equipment) by the Hirer, and,
 - c. All claims, losses, damages and costs suffered or incurred as a result of any nuisance caused to a third party as a result of the use of the premises by the Hirer.
- 14.2 Any Hirer who hires the Centre for commercial purposes shall take out adequate insurance to insure the Hirer and members of the Hirer's organisation and invitees against the Hirer's liability and all claims arising as a result of the hire, and on demand shall produce the policy and current receipt or other evidence of cover to the Council. Failure to produce such policy and evidence of cover will render the hiring void and enable the Council to rehire the premises to another Hirer.
- 14.3 All music and other entertainment providers (Disco, Band, etc.) require their own Public Liability insurance to perform in the Centre, and the Hirer shall ensure that this is in place.
- 14.4 Stone Town Council is insured against any claims arising out of its own negligence.

15 ACCIDENTS AND DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES

The Hirer must report all accidents involving injury to the public to the Town Council as soon as possible and complete the relevant section in the Centre's accident book. Certain types of accident or injury must be reported in accordance with the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR). Please contact the Town Council for further advice, if needed.

Any failure of equipment belonging to the Centre or brought in by the Hirer must also be reported as soon as possible to prevent potential accidents.

16 EXPLOSIVES AND FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES

16.1 The Hirer shall ensure that:

- a. Highly flammable substances are not brought into, or used in any part of the premises including BBQ equipment.
- b. No internal decorations of a combustible nature (e.g. polystyrene, cotton wool) shall be erected without the consent of the Council. No decorations are to be put up near light fittings or heaters.

17 NO SMOKING POLICY

17.1 Smoking/vaping is not allowed within the Centre building or car park at any time.

18 DECORATIONS AND DISPLAYS

18.1 Affixing decorations, signs, notices, slogans, flags, banners, paintings, pictures or similar by whatever means to any part of the Hall (be it internal or external) is not permitted at any time, including the use of nails, staples, picture fixings or blu-tack.

18.2 The use of free standing screens and/or portable displays is permitted on the understanding that they do not block or conceal any exit, passageway or firefighting equipment.

19 HEATING APPLIANCES

19.1 The Hirer shall ensure that no unauthorised heating appliances shall be used on the premises.

20 DRUNK & DISORDERLY, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND ILLEGAL DRUGS OR OTHER SUBSTANCES

- 20.1 The Hirer shall ensure that in order to avoid disturbing neighbours to the Centre and avoid violent criminal or anti-social behaviour, care shall be taken to avoid excessive consumption of alcohol. Drunk and disorderly behaviour shall not be permitted either on the premises or in its immediate vicinity. Alcohol shall not be served to any person suspected of being drunk nor to any person suspected of being under the age of 18. Proof of age may be requested. Any person suspected of being drunk, under the influence of drugs or other substances, or who is behaving in a violent disorderly or anti-social way shall be asked to leave the premises. No illegal drugs may be brought onto the premises.

21 ANIMALS

- 21.1 The Hirer shall ensure that no animals are allowed into the building at any time, except guide and hearing dogs. No animals whatsoever are to be allowed to enter the kitchen areas at any time.

22 COMPLIANCE WITH THE CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION

- 22.1 The Hirer shall ensure that any activities for children comply with the provisions of any or all Child Protection Legislation, including the Children Act of 1989 and any subsequent legislation, and that, only fit and proper persons who have passed the appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks have access to the children. Checks may also apply where vulnerable adults are taking part in activities. The Hirer shall provide the Town Council with a copy of their DBS check and Child Protection Policy on request.

23 FLY POSTING

- 23.1 The Hirer shall not carry out or permit fly posting or any other form of unauthorised advertisements for any event taking place at the premises, and shall indemnify and keep indemnified each member and employee of Stone Town Council accordingly against all actions, claims and proceedings arising from any breach of this condition. Failure to observe this condition may lead to prosecution by the local authority.

24 SALE OF GOODS

- 24.1 The Hirer shall, if selling goods on the premises, comply with Fair Trading Laws and any code of practice used in connection with such sales. In particular, the Hirer shall ensure that the total prices of all goods and services are prominently displayed, as shall be the organiser's name and address and that any discounts offered are based only on manufacturers recommended retail prices.

25 FILM SHOWS

- 25.1 Children shall be restricted from viewing age-restricted films classified according to the recommendations of the British Board of Film Classification. Hirers should ensure that they have the appropriate copyright licences for film.

26 CANCELLATION

- 26.1 If the Hirer wishes to cancel the booking before the date of the event and the Town Council is unable to conclude a replacement booking, the question of the payment or the repayment of the fee shall be at the discretion of the Town Council.
- 26.2 Stone Town Council reserves the right to cancel any hiring in the event of:
- a. The premises being required for use as a Polling Station for a Parliamentary or Local Government election or by-election
 - b. The Town Council reasonably considering that (i) such hiring will lead to a breach of licensing conditions, if applicable, or other legal or statutory requirements, or (ii) unlawful or unsuitable activities will take place at the premises as a result of this hiring
 - c. The premises becoming unfit for the use intended by the Hirer
 - d. An emergency requiring use of the premises as a shelter for the victims of flooding, snowstorm, fire, explosion or those at risk of these or similar disasters.
- 26.3 In any such case the Hirer shall be entitled to a refund of any deposit already paid, but the Council shall not be liable to the Hirer for any resulting direct or indirect loss or damages whatsoever.

27 END OF HIRE

- 27.1 The Hirer shall be responsible for leaving the premises and surrounding area in a clean and tidy condition, properly locked and secured unless directed otherwise and any contents temporarily removed from their usual positions properly replaced, and all rubbish removed from the premises otherwise the Town Council shall be at liberty to make an additional charge.

28 NOISE

- 28.1 The Hirer shall ensure that the minimum of noise is made on arrival and departure, particularly late at night and early in the morning. The Hirer shall, if using sound amplification equipment, make use of any noise limitation device available or provided at the premises and comply with any other licensing condition for the premises. Doors to the building should be kept closed during the event so that noise does not affect residents in nearby housing.

29 STORED EQUIPMENT

- 29.1 The Town Council accepts no responsibility for any stored equipment or other property brought on to or left at the premises, and all liability for loss or damage is hereby excluded.
- 29.2 All equipment and other property (other than stored equipment) must be removed at the end of each hiring or fees will be charged for each day or part of a day at the hire fee per hiring until the same is removed.

30 NO ALTERATIONS

- 30.1 No alterations or additions may be made to the premises nor may any fixtures be installed or placards, decorations or other articles be attached in any way to any part of the premises without the prior written approval of the Council.
- 30.2 At the discretion of the Council. any alteration, fixture or fitting or attachment so approved shall either:
- a. Remain in the premises at the end of the hiring and become the property of the Council

- b. Be removed by the Hirer, who must make good to the satisfaction of the Council any damage caused to the premises by making the alteration or its removal.

30.3 No fixtures, fittings or Centre property may be removed.

31 NO RIGHTS

The Hiring Agreement constitutes permission only to use the premises and confers no tenancy or other right of occupation on the Hirer.

Neighbourhood Planning Steering Committee

Notes of the meeting held in Stone Town Council Chamber on Tuesday 5 July, 2017

PRESENT: Councillors:
Mrs J. Hood (Chairman), J. Davies, M. Green, A. Osgathorpe, T. Jackson, R. Kenney and I. Fordham.
Also: Miss H. Barter (Urban Vision), Mr L. Trigg, Mrs J. Bonser, Mrs B. Rochelle, Mr G. Barr and Mrs T. Williams.

APOLOGIES: None received

Progress Report

Hannah Barter informed the group that two resident consultations had taken place since the last meeting of the Committee. Stone Town Council has written to the residents in two proposed Special Character Areas (SCA): North SCA and South SCA.

All consultation responses have been logged on an A3 table* (distributed at the meeting).

Eight representations were received in total for both Special Character Areas North and South and a summary of the comments for each Special Character Area were issued on a sheet* (distributed at the meeting). A summary of these are:

- North SCA: 5 responses with 3 broadly supportive. The others questioned the policy and suggested an alternative approach based on distances between properties.
- South SCA: 3 responses with 2 responses against the SCA. The remaining asks questions, but does not comment on the suitability of the proposal.

The proposed North SCA has a clear, established character, based on individual properties standing in extensive garden space and the rear gardens provide a useful transition zone between the built-up area of Stone and the adjacent wood and urban fringe leading to Moddershall Valley.

The proposed South SCA has some character based on individual properties standing in extensive gardens although some of these plots already have development within the garden space. The area is flanked by the railway embankment and surrounded by built up housing areas.

Concern was expressed about the possibility that developers will attempt to maximise the development potential of land within the area of transition, to have a negative visual impact on Moddershall Valley.

Hannah has confirmed with Alex Evans at Stafford Borough Council that there is no planning history apart from the current and live planning applications. Outline planning permission has already been awarded on Blackies Lane.

* 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.

She clarified that planning permissions have a timespan of three years from approval to the point where the construction work is started on site (i.e. footings have been dug). Once work has commenced there is no designated time limit for completion of the build. The Neighbourhood Plan will have no effect on previously approved applications but could stop further similar developments from the point at which it acquires legal weight. The policy would become a material planning consideration and provide grounds for the refusal of planning permissions. At this stage of the process, Stafford Borough Council will be acting illegally if it ignored the policy content. Stone Town Council should bear the policy detail in mind and make reference to it when consultation responses are produced.

Hannah expressed her professional planning view as being:

- the North SCA should be included in the Stone NP (leave the policy as it is)
- the South SCA should not be included in the Stone NP (there is not sufficient merit)

A vote was then taken to determine whether the two SCA's are included in the Plan.

It was **RESOLVED**:

To include the North SCA in the Stone Neighbourhood Plan

Exclude the South SCA from the Stone Neighbourhood Plan

Timetable

Hannah asked for agreement on a number of timetable dates (using a draft timetable issued* to all present).

Action Points/comments

Hannah said she would now change the draft Neighbourhood Plan, leaving in descriptions of the two SCA, but stating that the policy will only apply to SCA North.

Local Green Spaces Consultation: Additional consultation for Westbridge Park.

The Consultation process will begin with information being uploaded to the Town Council's website.

Also, consideration could be given to having a table at an event in the town (late night shopping events on 20 July and 17 August).

Need to put in: Excel spreadsheet (Hannah to circulate) with one additional space for the Local Green Spaces (Westbridge Park). Hannah agreed to write a paragraph for the website and to include a link giving additional information on Open Green Spaces. She agreed to email this to everyone.

It was agreed that the whole NP document be circulated to the Steering Group (same document circulated to GP Committee with a different map). Jane advised that she had tweaked the document.

* 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.

The Town Clerk advised that the document needed to be approved at the Steering Group before going to the General Purposes Committee for approval of the plan.

Photographs: Mrs Bonser, Councillor Davies, Councillor Kenney and Councillor Mrs Hood agreed that they would meet on 19 July 2017 to consider the photographs that should be incorporated into the document.

It was agreed that photographs would be submitted to the Town Clerk by Friday 21 July 2017. It was suggested they be categorised (i.e. general/special and have a minimum size of 3 mb).

The members meeting on 19 July 2017 would also go through the plan – working from a hard copy and amending any errors in the text on a laptop.

By 21 July 2017 a final word version would be available on a memory stick. This version could then be passed to the graphic designers.

It was decided that the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan document would, after its approval by the Steering Committee, go the General Purposes Committee on **5 September 2017**.

The papers for the General Purposes Committee meeting must however be issued prior to this date (and by 28 August 2017). The timetable requires the documents to be ready for issue on 18 August 2017.

A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED:**

To accept the amended plan of Westbridge Park.

Hannah advised that the Neighbourhood Planning process requires the screening of Stone Town Council's plan by Stafford Borough Council (as the Local Planning Authority). The Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage are consulted as part of this procedure and have 21 days to provide a formal opinion on whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment should be triggered.

A word version without photos will be sent by Hannah for screening now so that the screening report is back in good time.

The order for the process is: submit Neighbourhood Plan document to Stafford Borough Council → run Regulation 14 → consult with the community.

It was agreed that Hannah would contact Stafford Borough Council with a word version of the Neighbourhood Plan (agreed by 21 July) to start the screening process which takes five weeks.

A meeting on **30 August 2017** (6pm Council Chamber) was set, just prior to the start of Regulation 14. Regulation 14 will test the whole plan with statutory consultees and the wider community.

Regulation 14 will start on 25 September 2017 (depending on the Graphic designers).

* 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.

Steering Committee meeting dates were set for Wednesday **8 November** and Wednesday **15 November 2017** (Hannah to send an updated timetable).

* 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.

Neighbourhood Planning Steering Committee

Notes of the meeting held in Stone Town Council Chamber on Tuesday 2 August, 2017

PRESENT: Councillors:
Mrs J. Hood (Chairman), J. Davies, A. Osgathorpe, T. Jackson, R. Kenney and I. Fordham, M. Williamson and Mrs J. Piggott
Also: Mrs J. Bonser, Mrs B. Fradley and Mrs T. Williams.

APOLOGIES: Councillor M. Green, Councillor G. Neagus, Mr. G. Barr and Mr. L. Trigg.

Stone Neighbourhood Plan - Local Green Spaces

It was confirmed that all members of the Committee had each had an opportunity to read the changes made to the Local Green Space sites (LGS 01 – LGS 57) of the Stone Neighbourhood Plan.

It was noted that Hannah Barter (Planning Consultant – Urban Vision) had advised that the distinctive areas be referred to as ‘Character Areas’, a term which links to ‘Special Character Areas’.

It was agreed that the statement ‘Subject to a Decision Notice’ be added to text referencing Blackies Lane planning application. This note can be removed again later.

Amendments made to the site details of the October 2016 version of the Plan were considered:

(LGS 7 had been amended to ‘Crestwood Drive’ on the latest version of the document)

LGS 55 Westbridge Park

LGS 57 Newcastle Road Allotments

LGS 56 Tilling Drive Allotments

LGS 55 Priory Road Allotments

LGS 53 Chestnut Grove Allotments

LGS 52 Stone Youth & Community Centre

LGS 51 Stone SP Cricket Club (whole of playing field)

LGS 50 Stone Cemetery (a detailed discussion took place and it was decided that the site should be left in the Plan)

LGS 49 Little Stoke Cricket Club

LGS 01 Bushbury (Bankside has been taken out)

* 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.

A vote was taken and the amendments to the 'Local Green Spaces' were unanimously agreed.

It was suggested that the copy held by the Town Clerk is checked to ensure it is the latest version.

It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan consultation period would run from:

14 August to 4 September 2017 (closing at 12 noon)

It was also agreed that a 'High Street Green Space Consultation' event would be held on **Friday 1 September 2017** from 10am to 2pm.

This information would be included in the draft of text produced by Hannah for the Town Council's website.

It was confirmed that the final copy of the Plan would be read and checked by all members of the Group before its submission. Each should receive a hard copy with an electronic one.

It was agreed that the landowners of the 'Local Green Spaces' be notified.

* 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.



Stone Neighbourhood Plan 2031

Draft Version 2 - 15th August 2017



Contents:

Foreword
Background to the Neighbourhood Plan
The Neighbourhood Plan Area
Purpose of the Neighbourhood Development Plan
The Scope of the Neighbourhood Plan
The Neighbourhood Plan Process
The Local Plan
Consultation
Key Outcomes and Issues

Stone – the Place

Location
Landscape and Setting
History and Heritage
Demographics
Education
Business and Employment
Community Assets and Facilities
Culture
Traffic and Transportation
Infrastructure and Environment
Local Green Space
Sport & Recreation
Tourism
Character Areas
Gateways and Views
Town Centre and Markets
Wellbeing
Movement and legibility

Vision and Aims

Land Use Policies

Growth Strategy
Housing
Business and Employment
Community Assets and Facilities

Local Green Space Designation

Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO)

Appendices

Appendix A List of Evidence and Sources
Appendix B Plan of Character Area North of the Area
Appendix C Plan of Character Area South of the Area
Appendix D Local Green Space Audit
Appendix E Local Green Space Designations
Appendix F Plan of Local Green Space Designations
Appendix G Plan of Stone Settlement Boundary

Foreword:

Neighbourhood Plans derive from the Government's determination, through the Localism Act, to ensure that local communities are closely involved in the decisions that affect them.

In September 2015 Stone Town Council applied to Stafford Borough Council for the Parish of Stone to be an agreed Neighbourhood Planning Area. Once accepted, then the Town Council agreed that a Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group be set up including Town Council Members, Community volunteers, Business personnel from the area and other interested members from the community. The agenda, to establish a vision for Stone through the Neighbourhood Plan, which delivers the local communities needs and aspirations, but at the same time being in accord with the Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory document that will be incorporated into the Borough planning framework, and must be used by Stafford Borough Council to determine planning applications. The Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by the community, with the support of Stone Town Council, using the views of the residents of Stone and has been brought together by a Consultant from Urban Vision Enterprise CIC. Financial support has been provided by the nationwide community support organisation, Locality and through the Community Rights Programme, Groundwork UK. The Stone Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group has consulted with and listened to the community on a wide range of issues that will influence the well-being, sustainability and long-term preservation of this community. Every effort has been made to ensure that the views and policies contained in this document reflect those of the majority of Stone's residents.

Once the Plan has been made, following a favourable local referendum, the Stone Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the development plan and become, with the Borough Council's Local Plan, the starting point for deciding where development should take place and the type and quality of that development, ensuring that development is sympathetic to, and improves the look and feel of, the area. The plan also seeks to improve community facilities, services, infrastructure and the local environment to ensure that the quality of life of existing residents is improved and that future generations enjoy an excellent quality of life.

Chairman Neighbourhood Plan Jill Hood

Background to the Neighbourhood Plan:

This Neighbourhood Plan will set out the direction for Stone until 2031. It has been brought forward under the Government's Localism Act 2011, enabling local communities in England to take the lead in planning how their own neighbourhoods will develop. Stone Town Council has produced this Neighbourhood Plan in order to shape the future development of Stone. Although the Government's intention is for local people to influence what goes on in their neighbourhood area, the Localism Act 2011 does also set out important legal requirements. In accordance with such legislation, the Neighbourhood Plan must meet the basic conditions:

- Have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, namely the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Policy Guidance;
- Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- Be compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations; and
- Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area, which in this case is the adopted Plan for Stafford Borough (PfSB) Part 1 2014, and Part 2 Settlement Boundary delineation currently under examination with a proposed adoption date of December 2016.

In relation to the latter the Stone Neighbourhood Plan must reflect the strategic policies of the adopted PfSB Part 1 which have:

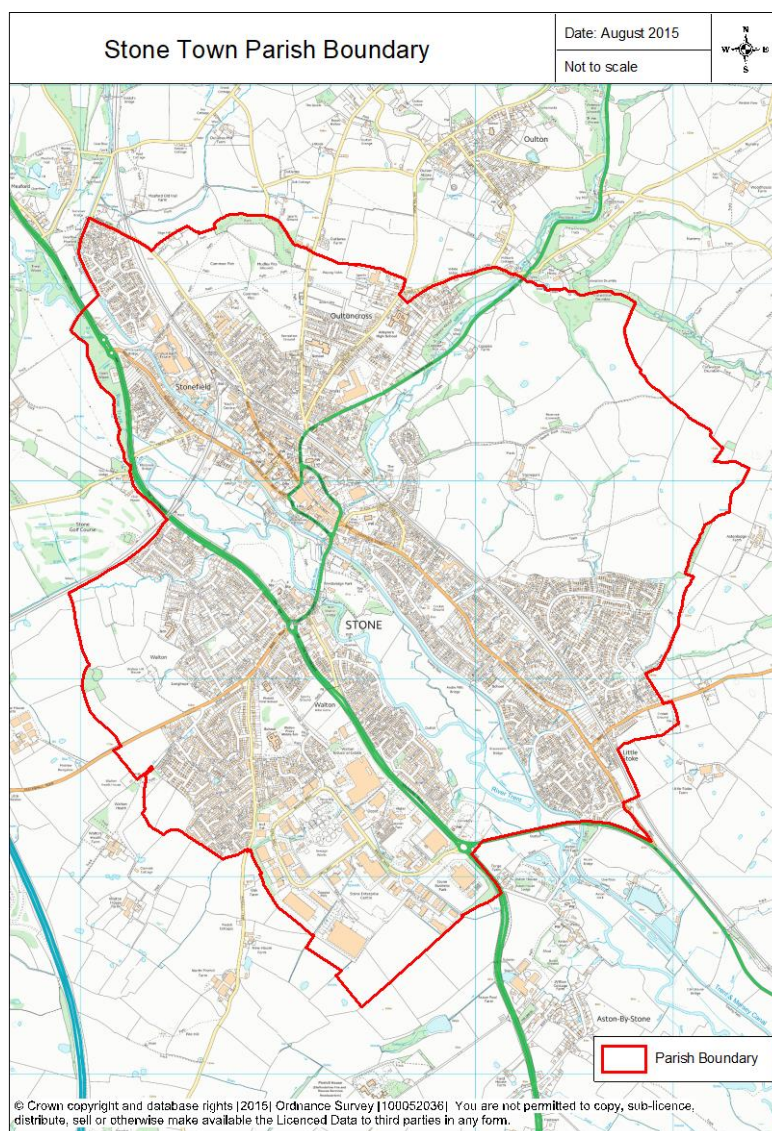
- i) Allocated land for a minimum of 1000 new homes to be delivered over the next 15 years; and
- ii) Allocated land for 18 hectares of new employment land.

Within these constraints, the Neighbourhood Plan still gives the opportunity for local people to have control over the future of their town, by actively planning where other development should go and what benefit it would bring to the town. Furthermore it can designate local green space to safeguard, improve and increase the local environmental and recreational resources of the town for the benefit of the health and well-being of local residents.

It can also incorporate other wider policies that go beyond land use considerations and demonstrate support for wider strategic improvements.

The Neighbourhood Area:

The neighbourhood area is the area that will be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan. The Stone neighbourhood area, which is the same as the area defined by the Stone Parish boundary, was designated by Stafford Borough Council on the 8th December 2015. The Borough Council's decision empowers Stone Town Council to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Stone. The Stone neighbourhood area is shown below:



Purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan:

Like many rural areas in England, Stone has been the subject of increasing pressures for development.

Neighbourhood Plans are part of the statutory planning system. This means that when decisions are made on planning applications the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan must be taken into account by the local planning authority, Stafford Borough Council.

Neighbourhood Plans are a new type of statutory plan. Not only are they intended to be produced by local people for their own areas, they also have to be agreed through a referendum of the people living in that area. Unlike national planning policy, which is approved by Parliament, or district planning policy which is approved by the local authority, a Neighbourhood Plan must be the subject of a vote by residents of the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan will be a statutory planning policy document supported by a majority of local people, which will enable Stone Town Council to have a greater and more positive influence on how the town develops over the remainder of the plan period going forward to 2031.

The Scope of the Neighbourhood Plan:

Although the purpose of Neighbourhood Plans, as previously highlighted, is to allow local people to have a greater say in the development of their areas, each Neighbourhood Plan must be in line with and not contradict higher level planning policy. It is a legal requirement for Neighbourhood Plans to have appropriate regard to the National Planning Policy Framework and to be in general conformity with local strategic policies. A key implication of these requirements is that, where the Local Plan has a growth allocation for an area, the Neighbourhood Plan must provide scope for at least the level of growth specified in the Local Plan. This is discussed in more detail in the Local Plan section.

In planning the future development of their areas local planning authorities must set out the level of growth in housing and employment, which will take place over the next 10 to 15 years. In other words the total numbers of new dwellings that will be built and the total area of land for

new employment that will be developed are both provided by the local planning authority. The Neighbourhood Plan can determine where these dwellings or business units will go, and it can allow a higher level of growth than the local planning authority requires, but it cannot reduce the scale of these allocations.

Consequently it may only deal with the same range of matters as all other statutory development plans, namely the development and use of land. Other matters, such as the promotion of events, social and community activities, advisory support for businesses, etc., and matters which are covered by separate legislation such as highways matters, cannot be dealt with in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan Process:

The Neighbourhood Plan process is set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This document defines the main stages that a Neighbourhood Plan must go through before it is voted on at the referendum. Neighbourhood Plans that do not closely follow the Regulations in the way they are produced may be vulnerable to legal challenge at a later date.

The following diagram illustrates the main stages in preparing the Stone Neighbourhood Plan.

Main Stages of the Stone Neighbourhood Plan Process:



Neighbourhood plans must be based on relevant evidence about the neighbourhood area (the Parish of Stone) and must reflect the views of the local community. The Town Council has therefore been careful to gather the necessary evidence to inform the Neighbourhood Plan and to underpin the policies within it.

The Neighbourhood Plan itself has been led by the Stone Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, which is made up of Town Councillors and volunteers from the local community. In producing this draft Neighbourhood Plan the Steering Group has been supported by Neighbourhood Planning specialists, Urban Vision Enterprise CIC. Throughout the process the Steering Group has liaised with Stafford Borough Council who have provided practical assistance and advice on key issues such as strategic local policy.

The Town Council organised many informal consultation events to gauge local opinion at key stages in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. In addition the Neighbourhood Plan has been the subject of a 6 week period of statutory consultation before the plan can be submitted to Stafford Borough Council. This is the stage when views about the Neighbourhood Plan are formally recorded and formally responded to, so anyone wishing to make comments must use this opportunity to register them.

During formal consultation the Town Council will advertise that the draft Neighbourhood Plan is available for people to comment on. The publicity will notify people of where they could see a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan, the deadline for comments, and where they could be returned. Details and all relevant documents are available on the Stone Town Council Neighbourhood Plan website <http://www.stonetowncouncil.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan> and forms will be made available for people to register their comments.

After the formal consultation period the Town Council will consider all the representations received and decide how to respond to them. This includes making appropriate modifications to the draft Neighbourhood Plan if necessary.

The amended Neighbourhood Plan will then be submitted to the Borough Council, along with a Consultation Statement and a Basic Conditions Statement explaining how the Neighbourhood Plan satisfies the defined legal requirements.

It is the Borough Council's duty to check whether the Neighbourhood Plan has followed the proper legal process and that it has met the legal requirements for consultation and publicity. If the Borough Council is satisfied in this regard, then the Borough Council will publish the Neighbourhood Plan and invite representations from the public and from statutory consultees. At this stage comments must focus on whether the Neighbourhood Plan satisfies the basic legal conditions.

Following the 6-week publicity period the Borough Council will appoint an independent examiner to consider the Neighbourhood Plan and any representations made at this stage. The

independent examiner's duty is limited to considering whether the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions. This means there is little scope to alter the content of the Neighbourhood Plan at this stage.

The independent examiner will prepare a report, which can recommend that the Neighbourhood Plan proceeds to a referendum, or proceeds to a referendum with appropriate modifications. If the examiner concludes that the Neighbourhood Plan does not meet the basic conditions he or she will recommend that it does not proceed to a referendum.

If the examiner finds the Neighbourhood Plan to be satisfactory, with modifications if necessary, then Stafford Borough Council will arrange for a referendum to take place. All people on the electoral register who live in the neighbourhood area (Stone Parish) will be entitled to vote in the referendum.

If more than 50% of the votes cast support the Neighbourhood Plan, then the Borough Council will bring the plan into force through a simple resolution of the Council.

The Local Plan:

One of the core principles of the NPPF states, 'planning should be genuinely plan led'. The current Local Plan is the Plan for Stafford Borough, (PfSB), Part 1, formerly adopted on 19th June 2014 and covering a plan period 2011-2031. Within that plan it identifies Stone as the second in the settlement hierarchy within Stafford Borough. Census figures from 1991 to 2011 evidence a 33% growth in the town's population rising to 16,365, with further growth continuing since then. This can be compared to a 10% growth at Stafford, at the top of the settlement hierarchy, over the same period. The PfSB has sought to redress this growth imbalance by allocating the greater proportion of housing development within the plan period to Stafford (7,000 units). Stone has been allocated a minimum of 1,000 units, but due to the popularity of Stone it is already 'overshooting' with the danger that it has the potential to skew disproportionately the plan-led system.

The Neighbourhood Plan has a role to play in ensuring that Stone plans for the proposed growth ensuring that any future development meets the needs and aspirations of the community.

Consultation:

Consultation is vital to the Neighbourhood Planning process as this is the mechanism through which the wishes of the community are incorporated in to the Plan.

It is important to emphasise that the Stone Neighbourhood Plan actually belongs to the people of Stone. The vision and policies within it are based on listening carefully to the wishes of local people and businesses through views expressed by various methods:

For those unable to attend the community consultation events, in November 2015 the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group undertook an extensive questionnaire survey as part of the evidence gathering process and distributed this to households and businesses within the Parish. The survey was also published in the Stone Gazette, a widely read local magazine, with a response slip to return to the Town Council. Information regarding the Public Consultation was also available on the Town Council website, a 'Little Bit of Stone' website, and advertised in the local press.

The survey provided essential and comprehensive feedback to the Steering Group on people's general opinions about the area, what they like, what they don't like, and what changes they would wish to see.

Community Consultation drop-in events took place as follows:

- 9am to 2pm on Saturday 21st November in the High Street, Stone Town Centre
- 6:00 to 8:30 pm on Monday 23rd November at Walton Community Centre
- 6:00 to 8:30 pm on Tuesday 24th November at St Michael's First School
- 6:00 to 8:30 pm on Wednesday 25th November at Alleyne's Academy

As a direct result of some of the consultation evidence, the group organised further community engagement focussing on exploring Stone Town Centre with a 'Town Tour' event on Saturday 12th March 2016. This provided the opportunity to look more closely at some of the issues raised during earlier engagement events.

Local residents overwhelmingly value Stone as a pleasant place to live and expressed great concern for how Stone should develop in the future.

Key Outcomes and Issues:

Stone has many positive features, which make it an attractive place to live. Local people generally have a high regard for Stone and appreciate its many assets, most notably the green open spaces in and around the town, its shopping and other facilities, the ambience of Stone as a historic market town, its thriving community spirit, and the wide range of leisure and recreational activities available to residents. Stone has good transport links to nearby towns and cities, local job opportunities, good schools, and access to the canal and river meadows, which are close to the heart of the town.

These assets have made Stone a desirable place to live and, as the second largest settlement in Stafford Borough, this has made it a focus for new housing development and, to a lesser extent, employment development. In recent years the town has seen significant housing growth, which is set to continue in the site allocations made by the latest Stafford Borough Local Plan. During the Stage 1 consultation a number of local people expressed a desire to limit housing growth in Stone, because of the adverse impact this is having on local infrastructure and on local green space. A number of people emphasised the importance of protecting and enhancing existing areas of open green space, which are important to the local community.

The Stafford Borough Local Plan contains site allocations for Stone which will see the addition of a further 600 new homes in addition to those which already have planning permission. This is a strategic housing allocation, which the Neighbourhood Plan cannot alter. Given this strategic commitment to significant new development over the plan period, it will be important to ensure that the homes built are designed to the best possible standard and complement and enhance the local built environment.

Alongside the expansion of the town, the other issue which was of great concern to many people during the Stage 1 consultation was the town centre and the High Street. The overwhelming view expressed was that the town centre is in decline, which is demonstrated by the number of charity shops and vacant shops, a reduction in the range and quality of shops available, and the loss of local independent shops. The town centre environment is not maintained to a high enough standard and some key historic buildings are underused and in need of refurbishment.

Many people were concerned about the amount of traffic, which goes through the town centre, causing congestion at peak periods and difficulties for pedestrians, serving to isolate the historic core from the residential areas around it. A number of people also mentioned a shortage of convenient, free or reasonably priced car parking.

The other main concern was overstretched local community services and facilities, which many people attributed to the increased population. In particular, medical facilities were considered to be inadequate to meet current demand and in need of upgrading. Leisure facilities for children, young people and teenagers were regarded to be inadequate and in need of improvement.

Stone – The Place:

In order to produce a robust Neighbourhood Plan it is necessary to have a good understanding of both the neighbourhood area and the local community's views about what should be done to improve and protect it.

This section of the Plan provides a brief history of Stone, its growth in the 20th century, and an assessment of its character.

Location:

Stone is an old market town in Staffordshire which serves a significant rural hinterland. Situated about 7 miles (11 km) north of Stafford, and around 7 miles (11 km) south of the city of Stoke-on-Trent, it is the second town in the Borough's settlement hierarchy after Stafford itself. Although in mid-Staffordshire, from a national perspective it is considered as being in the North Midlands and is located almost midway between Birmingham and Manchester.

The Parish consists of two distinct areas bisected by the A34, a dual carriageway and major trunk route, and the River Trent which lies slightly east of but parallel to the road. To the west of the river is Walton, a predominantly residential area with housing development occurring in the main over the last 50 to 60 years. The town's main Business Park is also located here to the west.

To the east lies the town centre and the older pre-Victorian and Victorian residential areas. This said, there has also been new development in the 1980's and 1990's south and east of the town centre including the building of the large Aston Lodge estate and the area around Brassworks Farm, along with infill along the Lichfield Rd.

Landscape and Setting:

Stone lies on the River Trent. The Trent rises on Biddulph Moor some 18 miles away and passes through Stoke-on-Trent before flowing in a north-west to south-east direction through Stone parish. The river, as previously highlighted, divides the parish into two halves. The Scotch Brook, a tributary to the Trent rises approximately 3 miles away near Moddershall, to the north/north-east of Stone. This fast flowing stream winds its way through the town, under an

aqueduct supporting the Trent Mersey canal, joining the Trent just above the main road bridge which spans the river on Stafford Road.

The floodplain of the River Trent, which also accommodates the Trent Mersey Canal along most of its length in the parish, forms a green corridor and has three designated Local Nature Reserves within its boundaries. Westbridge Park, a recreational area for the local community and a site for hosting town events, also forms part of that corridor.

The immediate area of Stone comprises a small inlier of Keuper sandstone. These beds dip gently to the south where they are quickly buried beneath a thickening cover of red clays, which make up the Keuper marl. To the north, the inlier is abruptly truncated by an east-west fault, resulting in the sandstones making a low escarpment, which defines the northern edge of the Common Plot.

In terms of topography, within the parish the land to the east of the Trent rises from a level of 88m AOD by the river itself to 160m AOD, the highest point, just above Stone Park Farm. Land to the west of the river has a gentler incline rising to approximately 115m AOD within the parish boundary.

Stone is on the border of two National Character Areas defined by Natural England, namely NCA 68 The Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands to the east of the River Trent, and NCA 61 Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plains to the west of the river.

Although the Parish of Stone is predominantly urban in character and referred to as a market town in the above document it does have rural areas within the boundary. These fall into three further character areas:

- 1) NCA68: Settled farmlands: These are to the north/east and east of the town centre encompassing the area around Stone Park Farm behind Aston Lodge estate and the lower section of the Moddershall Valley. This is a landscape of strongly rounded or sloping landform with steeper slopes associated with narrow wooded stream valleys. Non-calcareous brown soils overlay Triassic mudstones. The dominant land use is dairying with some mixed farming. There is a varied pattern of small to medium sized hedged fields which contribute substantially to landscape character, with a scatter of small woodlands, often of ancient origin. The settlement pattern is of mixed traditional red brick buildings and not distinctive. According to Staffordshire County Council Landscape Character mapping, this is highlighted as being a sensitive area, with the critical factor which currently limits landscape quality being the loss of characteristic

semi-natural vegetation, in particular ancient woodland and hedgerows and semi-natural grasslands.

- 2) NCA 61: Settled farmlands: Land to the east of Walton up to the parish boundary. Landscape characteristics include a gently undulating landform, mature broadleaved woodlands, and a strong irregular hedgerow pattern with well treed field ponds and stream corridors. The settlement pattern is mixed comprising traditional red brick farmsteads and houses. The area is not highlighted as sensitive in landscape mapping documents.

- 3) NCA 68: Sandstone heaths and hills: this encompasses land to the north and north east of Stone. Specifically within the parish this includes Coppice Wood and land south of Nicholl's Lane, land behind Alleynes sports Centre and land crossing Old Road to include the Common Plot. This landscape is restricted to areas where Triassic sandstones are not obscured by drift deposits. It is a landscape of mainly intact, small to medium scale irregular fields superimposed on a rolling lowland landform incised by small steep sided valleys known locally as drumbles. The small scale enclosed feel to this pastoral landscape is emphasised by the network of narrow, sunken winding lanes with small hidden settlements. Broadleaved and conifer woodlands are often associated with the steep stream valleys. Some small areas of heathland that was formerly widespread survive but make limited contribution to visual character. However it is the heathy nature of the woodlands, and the presence of bracken in hedgerows that provide the stronger visual reminder of this landscape's heathland origins. These landscapes, according to Staffordshire County Council Landscape Character documents, are of high quality with few limiting factors.

Sources: Planning for Landscape Change SCC 2000.

Journal of the Staffordshire Industrial Archaeology Society Vol 4 1973 The origins of Stone by M Allbutt and S R Broad bridge

History and Heritage:

The local legend is that the town was named after the pile of stones taken from the River Trent raised on the graves of the two princes, Ruffin and Wulfad, killed in AD 665 by their father, King Wulfhere of Mercia because of their conversion to Christianity. However, this story is unlikely to be true. Wulfhere was already a Christian when he became king, and the story on which it is

probably based is set by Bede in another part of the country over ten years after Wulfhere's death.

A church allegedly built over these stones in 670 lasted until the 9th century before being destroyed by invading Danes. It was replaced in 1135 by the Augustinian, Stone Priory which survived until its dissolution in the reign of Henry VIII. The building collapsed in 1749 and the present church of St. Michael's was built in 1758. All that remains of the original priory is the rib-vaulted undercroft which forms the foundations beneath Priory House on Lichfield Road.

There is no record of a village or town called Stone in the Domesday Book, however Walton is mentioned in the Domesday Book which now forms part of the historic town of Stone. The subsequent development of a significant medieval township at Stone must have had its origins in the decision to found a monastery or Priory, the site of which was chosen for good practical reasons. It lay on the ancient road from London to Chester following the Trent valley where there were fords to the now Scotch Brook and to the River Trent. The Scotch Brook stream ensured a permanent supply of clean water, adequate in volume to later work a number of mills. The site of Stone itself was reasonably well drained, whilst close enough to the flood plain and water meadows, which provided permanent pasture. To the north there lay slightly elevated ground, (the Stonefield Area), underlain by sandstone and suitable for arable cultivation. With good communications at hand Stone Priory was soon confirmed as a centre of medieval life with the granting of a Market Charter some say by Henry III in 1251 and others by Edward I in 1292.

Throughout the centuries the town continued to grow. Around the nucleus provided by the Priory and regular markets and fairs, a small trading community began to develop. This is still reflected in the lay out of the town with the long narrow 'luggage tenements' stretching back on both sides of the High Street.

In the 17th and 18th centuries Stone was an important road centre. To this was added the canal in the 1770's and the railway system in the mid 1800's together with industrial development, especially boot and shoe manufacturing. From a population of around 1,700 inhabitants in 1665, Stone grew to 7,500 by 1831, linked to the onset of industry and prosperity that followed from the opening of the Trent and Mersey canal in 1777.

John Welsly in 1789 wrote: 'the Town is in a more flourishing state than formerly owing to the great navigation that passes it. It consists of one principal street which is now a pretty good one with a new market place and one of the best inns on this extensive road (from London to Chester).

Famous People:

Famous people associated with Stone include Thomas Bakewell, a poet and a pioneer in the treatment of the mentally ill; John Jervis, Earl St Vincent the victor of the sea battle against the Spanish at the Cape of St Vincent in 1797; Peter de Wint the landscape artist who is traditionally believed to have been born in Stone on 21st January 1784; Rev Stebbing Shaw one of the first Staffordshire Historians who was born in the Town in 1762; Henry Fourdrinier who redeveloped the paper making machine which revolutionised the paper making industry in this country. Foudrinier is linked to Coppice Mill within the parish, which in the 1720's is documented as a paper mill, before being converted to a flint mill in the 1800's. Richard (Stoney) Smith who was born at the Mill, (also previously known as Weavers Mill), in Mill Street in 1836, (now a restaurant), and developed the flour we now know as Hovis. Cardinal John Henry Newman preached the sermon at the dedication of the nave of the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception and St Dominic in Stone and he presented the procession lights to the Sister's at the convent which are still in use today. William Bernard Ullathorne, first Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham is buried in the transept of the Catholic Church in Stone. It was through his drive, dedication and enthusiasm as Archbishop of Birmingham in the early days of the re-establishment of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy in England, that the new diocese of Birmingham flourished and Catholicism spread throughout the area.

More recently, Olympic canoeist Lizzie Neave lived and trained in the town. Similarly, Joe Clarke who also lives and trains in the town won a gold medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics in the men's slalom K-1 event.

Canal Town:

The first meeting of the Grand Trunk Canal Company (later the Trent and Mersey Canal Company) was held in the Crown Inn, Stone on 10th June 1766. At this meeting James Brindley was appointed Surveyor-General, John Sparrow Clerk and Josiah Wedgwood Treasurer. In 1767 it was decided to locate the headquarters of the canal company in the Town. The arrival of the canal in Stone changed the Town, to quote from a contemporary source "from a sleepy market town into a busy inland sea port".

The Coaching Era:

Stone was on the main road from London to the north-west and at the height of the coaching era 38 coaches a day passed through the Town, with Abbey Street being the main route stopping at several coaching inns, including The Crown in the High Street.

The present Crown Hotel was designed by the famous architect Henry Holland and replaced a much earlier Crown Inn. The end of the coaching era came swiftly after the opening of the Grand Junction Railway in 1837. By 1841, Pigot's directory evidences a much reduced service, with coaches running from Stone to Norton Bridge, the nearest railway station, and one daily coach to Stafford and the Potteries. As railway lines spread the roads fell into disrepair and did not recover until the 20th century.

Industry:

Early beginnings of the boot and shoe industry in Stone can be assessed from 1756 documents. By 1851 White's directory listed 16 manufacturers in the foot-wear industry in Stone with the provision of leather from tanneries situated at the south end of Crown Street. Whilst initially most of the work was undertaken on a domestic basis, over time there was a growth in factories and sizeable workshops, employing 20% of households within the urban parish. The last quarter of the 19th century brought difficulties for the trade and in 1910 four local shoe firms merged. Lotus Ltd eventually became the last remaining business, which eventually amalgamated with the Stafford and Northampton concerns.

Due to the quality of the local water beneath Stone two brewers were located here carrying on the Augustinian monks' tradition of beer making. The most notable was John Joule & Sons Ltd, established in 1780. The company was acquired by Bass Charrington in 1968, and ceased brewing at the end of October 1974. The adjacent bottling plant was closed some years before. The canal played an important role in the export of beer. Joules' draught beer stores and bottling plant remains an imposing building on the canal and can be clearly identified by the red cross logo of John Joules in the brickwork.

The second brewer was Montgomery & Co, acquired by the Bent's Brewery Co of Liverpool in 1889. The brewery was located on what is now Mount Industrial Estate. It was also taken over by Bass and closed on 31 March 1968.

Stone also had a brass industry sited around Brassworks Farm. The farm and a short row of cottages are the only visible remains today. The works were sited to take advantage of the opening on the Trent and Mersey canal. This brought supplies of copper and cast from the Cheadle area and transported the finished goods of rolled sheet and wire. Coal was brought along the canal, although a stream gave a supplementary amount of water power. The venture whilst successful was relatively short lived with actual brass working only carried out between the years 1794 to 1830.

The lower part of the Moddershall Valley lies within the Parish. The valley as a whole, which has the Scotch Brook at its heart, is unique in that its watermills wet ground flint and bone, essential for the production of white ware, china and porcelain for the Potteries. This allowed the pottery industry to flourish resulting in famous names such as Wedgwood and Spode, amongst others, becoming part of our national heritage. Within the parish, Coppice Mill began its life c1720's as a paper mill linked to Foudrinier, before converting to grinding flint in the 1800's. The Flint Mill, next to the Mill Restaurant, was only recently discovered and its restoration and conversion to domestic use was one of the projects in the Channel 4 Restoration Man series of programmes. Remarkably seven of a total of 10 watermills in the valley remain in various states of repair, due in main to the fact they were still functioning up to the mid-20th century.

Town Crest:

The Crest of Stone represents the present and former industries of the Town and County. The Wheatsheaf represents agriculture, the tun represents the brewing industry. The Chevron and the Stafford Knot are taken from the County Crest. The two black Lozenges represent that Stone lies between the former North and South Staffordshire coalfields. The shoemaker's knife and awl represent the Town's once famous boot and shoe industry. The Coat of Arms is surmounted by the mantling and a demi Pegasus issuing from a Naval crown taken from the arms of John Jervis, Earl St Vincent. The motto: Sit Saxum Firmum is Latin for Let the Stone be Firm.

Demographics:

Stone is a relatively affluent market town with a growing and ageing population. As detailed earlier, according to the 2011 national census the population of the town was 16,385, an increase of 33% since 1991 and an increase of 11% over the 10 years since 2001. An estimated 49% of the population fall into socio-economic groups A, B, C1 compared with 41% for Stafford Borough as a whole.

According to the Staffordshire Observatory, the population of Stone can be anticipated to increase by at least a further 20% by 2031 implying a population of 20,000. This growth will be driven primarily by new housing and increased longevity. The residents live in approximately 6,500 households providing an average number of inhabitants per household of 2.5.

The number of senior citizens is expected to double over the period between 2011 and 2031 and may represent 35% of the population (7,000) by 2031. According to EJNSA, a least 15% (1,000) of this older population may be living alone.

These headline figures are:

People



Stone hub is home to

16,385 residents

... of whom, 73% are working age



67% of residents are in employment (aged 16-74)

(National average = 62%)

Of those in employment ...

11% are self-employed

(National average = 16%)



20% of residents have no qualifications (aged 16+)

(National average = 23%)

... and **33%** have NVQ Level 4+

(National average = 27%)

(Data Sources: 2011 Census BUA data published by ONS on NOMIS, Staffordshire County Council IDBR Business Database, Produced by SQW)

Education:

Stone has a three tier education system which is operated by Staffordshire County Council. Young People attend first school from ages 4 to 9 (reception to year 4), then one of the two middle schools from age 9 to 13 (years 5 to 8), and finally Alleynes Academy from age 13 to 18 (Years 9 to 13).

The schools within the Stone Neighbourhood Plan area are shown in the table below.

Age Range	School Name & Address			
13 -18	Alleynes Academy, Oulton Road			
9 -13	Christ Church Academy (C of E Middle School), Old Rd		Walton Priory Middle School, Beacon Rise	
4 - 9	Christ Church C of E First Sch., Northesk St.	Manor Hill First Sch., Manor Rise, Walton	Pirehill First Sch., Tilling Drive, Walton	St Michael's C of E First Sch., Weavers Lane

In addition to state schools there are two faith schools; St Dominic's Catholic Primary School, part of the Holy Trinity Academy which takes children from ages 4 to 11 and feeds into the Blessed William Howard School in Stafford, and St Dominic's Priory School RC, an Independent School taking children from nursery age up to 16.

Whilst Stafford Borough Council are not responsible for education and learning directly, they do offer plenty of useful information and provide relevant contact details and web links for important topics within this area. See: <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/education-and-learning>

Further information about the admission process in all our state schools can be found on the Staffordshire County Council website. See: <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/home.aspx>

Ofsted Reports on schools in the area including pre-school choices can be found at: <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/results/any/any/any/any/any/any/any/any/st15%208qw/5/any/0/0#search2>

Stone residents feel the town has a good education system although they acknowledge its resources are being put under pressure with the increase in population. This is currently being absorbed within the existing provision but new housing development in the Walton area of the

town will require community infrastructure provision to deliver education contributions to primary, middle and secondary school facilities with most of this being targeted at Manor Hill First School.

Business and Employment:

Stone is a vibrant town with a diversity of business and employment, covering a wide variety of industry sectors. In recent surveys the 3 largest are wholesale, retail and motor vehicles at 16%, health and social work at 15% and 12% in manufacturing. These are either in line with or greater than the national percentages.

Stone has a good mix of businesses both in the dedicated areas of Stone Business Park, Whitebridge Industrial Estate and the much smaller Mount Road Industrial estate, all of which are situated on edge of town sites, maximising the excellent access to the road networks without infringing upon the residential areas of the town. Within Stone, there are a number of SME businesses in addition to the retail outlets. These include design and printing, picture framing, fork lift sales and maintenance, and animal healthcare products. In addition the area also supports a number of very unique companies such as local breweries and one of Europe's leading string instrument makers and shops, Tim Toft Violins located in the main town centre.

Stone offers prospective businesses an ideal location to set up, with a wealth of good local talent, (Alleyne's Academy and St Dominic's Priory Schools produce above average performing pupils), an excellent road infrastructure network by virtue of its proximity to the M6 and the cross country A50, and being within 1 hour of 3 international airports. As a pleasant place to work, Stone offers the ideal blend of vibrancy and peace in equal measure.

Employment within Stone takes on many forms covering all ages and genders. This is particularly well represented in the entertainment sector, where Stone has a very wide ranging and lively choice of dining out locations in and around the town. These range from small individual cafes and restaurants, through to large chains often seen in other towns and cities around the UK. The town boasts almost every type of cuisine whether it is Chinese, Indian, Italian, Portuguese, Thai, American and of course English, all providing a high level of service and excellence that continues to attract visitors back to the town.

Which sectors do Stone's residents work in?



16%

wholesale, retail & motor vehicles

(National average = 16%)



15%

health & social work

(National average = 13%)



12%

manufacturing

(National average = 9%)

(Data Sources: 2011 Census BUA data published by ONS on NOMIS, Staffordshire County Council IDBR Business Database, Produced by SQW)

So what about the future?

Stone continues to grow, with new businesses locating in the town attracted by the overall benefits it has to offer. A new Business Park project at Meaford will further continue this growth, creating several hundred jobs just two miles outside of the town centre over the next two to five years. This investment will no doubt have a positive effect on the smaller SME businesses in the town, as there will be opportunities to supply goods and services to those companies who choose to locate to the new Park.

Focus also has to remain on ensuring a sustainable High Street, as similar to many other retail areas in towns and cities around the country, Stone's High Street has faced gradual decline, with the loss of retailers and hence consumer choice. This decline is a result of many factors including the rise of out of town shopping, growth of internet retailers, increased business rates, poor car parking and a loss of relevance of the High Street to consumers. To expect to reverse this decline and return the shopping experience to halcyon days of old is unrealistic, but conditions can be improved to make the High Street fit for the 21st Century where experiential services will ensure a positive future.

In terms of food retailers, the Stafford and Stone Town Centre Capacity Assessment dated January 2011 identified the need for a further significant retailer to service the growing population and the likely site would be Westbridge Park. This has been vehemently opposed by much of the town's population as witnessed by the significant attendance at open meetings. Given the change in food retailing over the past 4-5 years, the need for a "larger store" should be questioned. There has been a marked rise in the modern "convenience" store, which has been linked to changes in consumer habits of buying less but shopping more frequently. With empty High Street sites such as the old Woolworths premises, a modern convenience store would support the vibrancy of the High Street and support increased footfall for the remaining various independent retailers.

The current independent retailers and service providers such as hairdressers, DIY and general hardware/home stores would benefit from Council lead initiatives to promote Stone and give consumers a reason to visit to supplement footfall builders such as the monthly farmers market. Council initiatives to support new start-up businesses such as business rate holidays and business advice could also encourage further diversity in retailer provision within the town.

Community Assets and Facilities:

Stone has a lively community life with a wide range of facilities and assets in the town including the recently opened community Fire Station located on the A34 in Walton. It offers community rooms, free of charge, for relevant community activities that focus on areas such as health, education, housing, employment and crime and disorder.



Stone Town Council leases the Frank Jordan Community Centre, which is on Lichfield Road at the bottom of the High Street, and this is regularly used by community groups and organisations such as; Slimming World, Stone Community Hub, U3A French, St John Ambulance, Endeavour Youth Club, Community Pay Back, and the Richmond Fellowship.

Stone Railway Station, a transport hub in the town, was built in 1848 and designed in the typical North Staffordshire neo-Tudor style by H.A Hunt. The station is a Listed Building, and renovated by Stone Town Council in 2004, it now offers community rooms and meeting spaces. This is situated off Station Road in Stone with free parking.



In the centre of town there are a number of coffee shops, restaurants public houses and cafés.

The Crown Hotel is situated in the centre of the High Street, and is a Grade II Listed Building. It became a hotel in 1834 and is still a thriving hotel today.



Westbridge Park is in the centre of Stone with a large grassed area to the right hand side and a fitness centre on the left, run by Stafford Borough Council. Westbridge Park takes its name from Westbridge House which once stood where the children's play area is today.

The park was opened in 1951 as part of the town's Festival of Britain Celebrations. To commemorate the event a pair of wrought iron gates were produced by a local blacksmith which

remain to this day by the pedestrian entrance to the park. The park is used by a variety of people for local events such as the annual week long Stone Festival in June, Stone Food and Drink Festival held each year during the first week-end in October plus many more events which bring the community together. The park is also the site for Stafford and Stone Canoe Club and centres for Guiding and Scouting, whose premises are also used by Stone Town Band and local committees such as the Bonfire Committee.



Stonefield Park is situated at the top end of Stone off Field Terrace. The park has a newly refurbished children's area, tennis courts and a bowling green along with well stocked flower beds.



Stone Common Plot is a unique area of pasture and woodland managed by a group of Trustees representing the Town of Stone and the surrounding Rural Parishes. It is managed to meet the strict requirements of the Natural England higher-level stewardship scheme. This is to help protect the pasture, which abounds with historic features, a unique hay meadow, ancient hedgerows and extensive woodland, each of these hosting and supporting an extensive array of flora and fauna. As part of the management Stone Common Plot offers up to 20 hectares of summer grazing land, managed by the Charitable Trust.



Culture:

Alongside those aspects of Stone Town that can be defined with relative ease (such as tourism, and sports and recreation) there is a rich tapestry of organisations which provide much of the character of the town as a neighbourhood.

Stone has a long Christian heritage dating back to the seventh century and the martyrdom of Wulfad and Ruthin. St Wulfad is commemorated in the name of St Michael's and St Wulfad's church, the longest established church in the town. Christ Church joined it as the second Anglican Church, in the Nineteenth Century. Stone was also a centre for the Roman Catholic revival and St Dominic's is a major feature of the town. The free church, St John's, is still active albeit no longer in its original building.

Music and dance are prominent with the Stone Choral Society (nearly 50 years' old), the Stone Town Band and the Scout & Guide Band performing regularly, now joined by the Cantiamo chamber choir. The Stone Recorded Music Society, the Blue Diamonds Square Dance Club and the Stone Scottish Dance Group must be added to this, along with the theatre groups, Stone Revellers, Rooftop Studios, Pop and Stage Academy, and Chuckle Productions.

A keen interest in horticulture is evident not only by the number of allotments in the town but also by specific organisations such as the Stone Flower Club, the Gardening Club of Stone, Stone Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society and the Stone and District Begonia Society.

There is a wide variety of charitable and community support organisations, ranging from the Freemasons, Rotary, and Lions through Probus, U3A and the Women's' Institute, to the Red

Cross, the Community Hub and First Responders. Stone in Bloom, the Stone Festival Committee and the Stone International Friendship Association should be added to this list, as too must be the ex-services organisations: the Royal British Legion and the Royal Air Forces Association.

The younger age group are catered for by the Endeavour Youth Club, the Scouts, the Girl Guides, the St John Ambulance and the two successful military cadet groups, the Stone Detachment (Mercian) of the Army Cadet Force, and No 2352 (Stone) Squadron of the Air Training Corps.

Other special interest groups include: Stone Watercolour Class, Stone Civic & Historic Society, North Staffordshire Association of Bell Ringers, the Stone & District Motorcycle Club and the Stone patchwork and quilters.

It is unfortunate that the town does not have an adequate community centre where all these organisations can meet. This is a particular challenge for the performance groups who desperately need a well-equipped auditorium seating at least 250 people.

Traffic and Transportation:

Stone historically has always been an important town in terms of road connections to other parts of the country. Stone's location on the major road route between London and Chester, and ultimately to Ireland was a significant factor in the town's growth and continuing importance. This route was described by Ogilby in 1675 as "...one of the most frequented roads in the kingdom". Stone lay at the junction of this road with another major road from the south via Birmingham and Stafford to Manchester and north to Scotland. Other roads approached from Eccleshall to the south-west and from Leek to the north-east.

Stone continues to be well connected by road to surrounding towns, but also further afield due to its location mid-way between junction 14 and 15 of the M6 and its easy access to the A50. Being only a seven to ten minute car journey away from all these major routes, it allows ease of access to both north and southbound journeys of the M6 and eastbound along the A50 to the M1 and the full motorway networks. The result being that Stone is very much a commuter town with heavy reliance on car usage.

Getting to work figures taken from the 2011 census over the 3 wards in Stone show the following data, confirming the heavy reliance on cars:

5,747 people use cars or vans (2,002 from Walton ward, 1,918 St Michaels ward, and 1,827 from Stonefield ward).

302 people use trains or buses (87, 80, and 135 respectively)

797 people work at or from home (225, 274, and 298 respectively)

1,455 people use other methods i.e. taxi, motorcycle, bicycle, walk and passengers in cars (529, 362, 564 from the respective wards).

The disadvantage to the proximity to the M6 corridor is that when accidents happen on this section of the motorway, and this is not infrequent, the traffic is diverted onto the A34, a dual carriageway road which bisects the parish in two. This results in very heavy traffic congestion across the local road network, which currently at peak times, is already congested. The PfSB acknowledges there is already congestion on the A520 Leek Rd into Stone and similarly the B5026 from Eccleshall which takes the traffic from the residential areas of Walton down to the A34. Alleviation of this congestion is a significant concern to local residents, particularly as Walton is currently accommodating an expansion of 592 homes within the area over the plan period, with a potential further 114 homes awaiting an Appeal Decision from a Public Inquiry in July 2016.

Stone as highlighted in the PfSB has an oversupply of 4 and 5 bedroomed houses which results in a higher proportion of 2+ car families. The use of bicycles as a mode of transport to work is very limited.

Whilst the PfSB attempts to encourage more sustainable methods of transport with the aim to improve links by public transport from the surrounding hinterland through better bus services, the reality is that bus services are currently being reduced. The 101 is the only bus giving a good regular service to both Stafford and Newcastle/Hanley. Other bus services are irregular and whilst servicing employment areas out of the town for those who have early start times, the same cannot be said of those office personnel who commence work later. Furthermore the local bus services which operate within the towns residential areas do not start early enough to accommodate those who would wish to catch a bus or train from Stone Town Centre to get to work for 9am. Dedicated earlier buses which link to these services could incentivise individuals to relinquish their reliance on the car. Further bus provision will also be required with the

expansion of the new Business Park at Meaford, and the building out of the Strategic Development Location site at Walton over the plan period.

Stone's only High School, Alleyne's Academy also generates significant cross town vehicle movements and hence congestion, due to a lack of bus services at appropriate times.

Stone's rail service resumed in December 2008 after some years of rail replacement bus services, and prior to 2003, a very poor stopping service for the Stoke to Stafford route. Since the London Midland Trent Valley trains started calling at Stone in 2008 passenger numbers have increased by 10% yearly to 103,472 in 2013-2104. Commuting to Stoke and Stafford is well used but the journey to Birmingham has been discouraged by having no convenient early evening return journey. Commuting to the north requires train changes at either Stoke or Crewe. However off-peak services and weekend use for leisure purposes continues to rise, given the reasonable train fares, particularly to London.

Rail access to Stone is provided through the two sections of the West Coast Mainline and much has been done to improve rail usage over recent years. Improving access to the railway station and secure appropriate levels of parking for both cars and bicycles is a priority, as is ensuring there is adequate provision for taxis through extending existing or creating new appropriately placed taxi ranks.

Stone is an important canal town and the Trent and Mersey canal bringing tourists into the town. There is good provision for Canal boats with services provided at Stone Town Boat Yard and Chandlery and nearby at Aston Marina.

There is a service run by Age Concern which offers elderly residents transport to hospital appointments. Serviced by volunteers it is under pressure and will become even more so as the population of Stone ages.

Infrastructure and Environment:

To accommodate the above mentioned traffic congestion and to relieve pressure points on the road network at roundabouts, as well as the A520 through the town centre, it is envisaged transport management schemes will need to be implemented over the plan period. Local

highway improvements and enhancements of the B5026 Eccleshall Road/A34 roundabout and the A34/A51 roundabout will also be required.

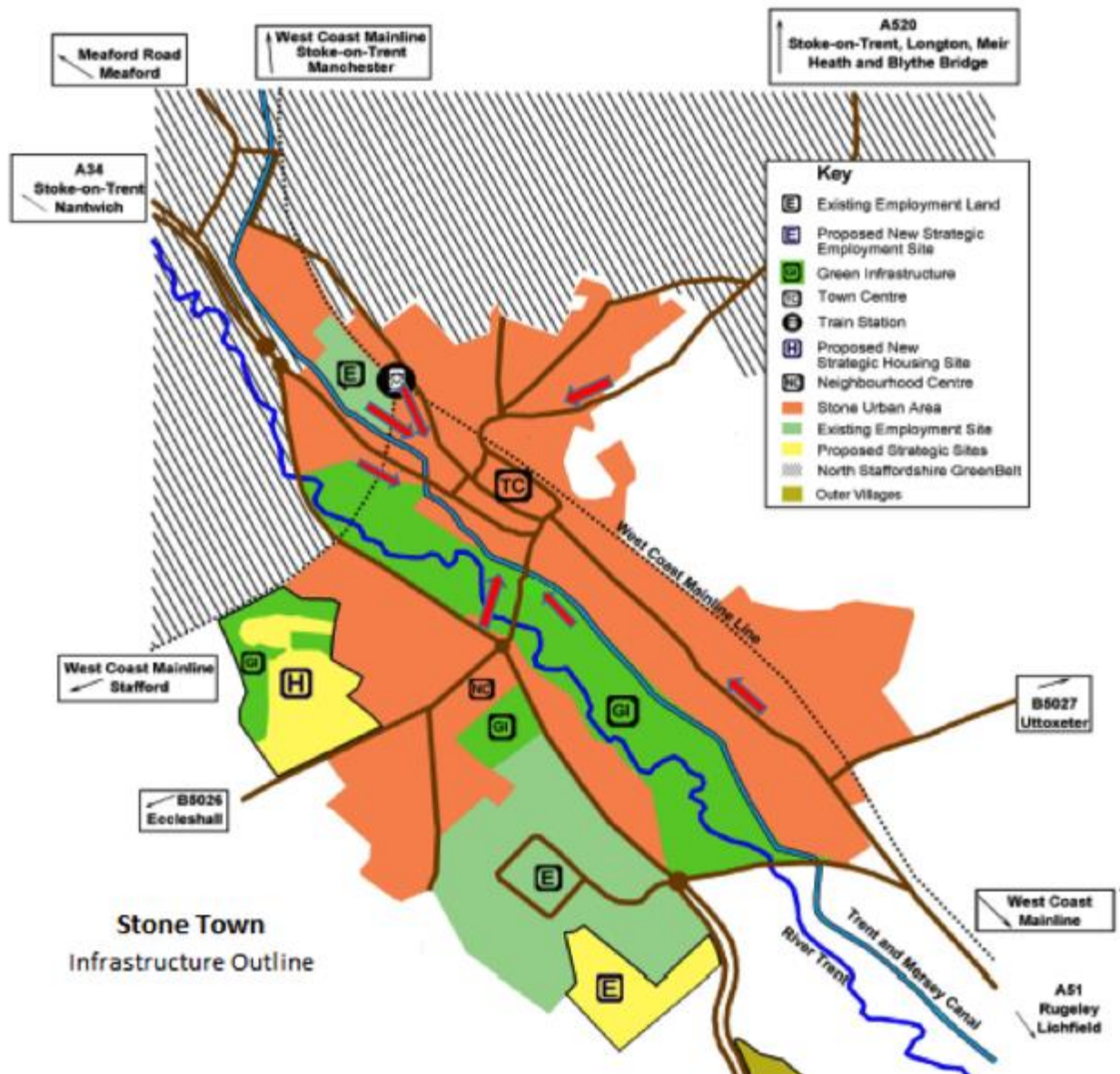
The development of walking and cycling connections, accessible to all members of the community, by extending existing foot and cycle paths together with the creation of new ones as an integral part of new developments, are vital for encouraging a reduction in car journeys both to local employment sites and to the town centre itself.

An important consideration in terms of new residential development at Stone will be the potential impact of additional foul water flows on the current sewerage system. During times of heavy rainfall the capacity in parts of the sewerage system can be exceeded resulting in localised sewer flooding. Depending on the location of development additional sewerage capacity may be required to reduce flood risk. New development to the west of Stone will drain via an existing sewage pumping station at Westbridge Park where capacity assessments will be required to determine whether further capacity is required. Any capacity improvements will need to coincide with development construction.

Information from Severn Trent Water has identified that any "on site" mains required for particular developments will need to be met by landowners and developers. Off-site reinforcement will be required to secure levels of service to Stone. Current proposals are to reinforce the trunk main network in Stone. It was planned that this should be constructed by 2016.

With regard to community infrastructure provision, new development will be required to deliver education contributions to primary, middle and secondary school facilities in Stone. Significant development in the Walton area of the town may require improvement of existing school sites in the locality.

Electricity providers have identified that the 11kV infrastructure in Stone is at capacity and therefore new development will require local improvements with further details to be provided by Central Networks. However no major gas infrastructure would be required in Stone, with 'standard' connections to the medium pressure system to be provided by developers.



(Source: Adopted Plan for Stafford Borough (PfsB) Part 1 2014)

The map above illustrates the general topology of Stone with its two main urban areas straddling the Trent flood plain. The orientation of the landscape determines the general north/south orientation of the town. Hence communication routes follows the same patterns with 4 lanes of the A34, Trent & Mersey Canal, River Trent and a branch of the West Coast Mainline rail link all following the same pattern. These transport links provide important gateways into Stone (shown by the red arrows).

The main provision for Green Infrastructure (GI) is along the River Trent flood plain, although as identified on the map, GI will be strengthened on part of the perimeter of the new strategic housing development scheme marked (H), increasing provision and enhancing biodiversity

assets within and around the town. The new development, marked H, plans to deliver approximately 500 new homes with 40% being affordable housing in the context of Policy C2, through a mix of housing types, tenures, sizes and styles with proportions of 2, 3 and 4 bedroomed properties.

Stone has two main existing Business Parks, Whitebridge and Stone, highlighted in pale green and marked E on the Plan. It is the intention of the Borough to add at least 18 hectares of new employment land, highlighted in yellow and marked E on the map, south of Stone Business Park. Just outside the Neighbourhood Plan area, to the north, is the developing Meaford Business Park.

In addition to the above GI, the Common Plot, Walton Common and nearby amenity areas of the Downs Banks and Aston Nature Reserve also provide important assets close to the town. Another major open green space is provided through the Well-Being Park located between Stone and Yarnfield and home to Stone Dominoes football club.

Stone Town West and South Infrastructure Requirements

Infrastructure Category	Requirements	Phasing	Capital Cost	Funding
Transport	An access, transport and travel plan strategy for the Strategic Development Location that maximises travel and accessibility by non-car transport modes via safe, attractive and conveniently designed street, pedestrian and cycling connections within the development and to Stone town centre, nearby existing and new employment areas. The strategy shall identify access points to the site and between the site and the existing settlement. It shall also identify construction access arrangements that do not disrupt existing residents and improvements to transport capacity along the B5028 Eccleshall Road, and at the A34 roundabouts	2011-2031	TBC	None committed, but potential sources include: Developer contributions
Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (CRITICAL)	Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace to be provide through (a) on-site open space provision, (b) management of Cannock Chase, or (c) contributions towards 'Suitable Alternative Natural Green space' (SANGS) elsewhere.	2011-2031	TBC	Developer contributions and / or direct provision.
Electricity (CRITICAL)	Connection to grid. Provision of a local electricity sub-station.	2011-2031	£4m	Developers will be required to pay for connections.
Gas	Reinforcement for housing sites	N/A	£150-250k (TBC)	TBC
Potable Water (CRITICAL)	Reinforcement of the water supply required. 1.2km of 450mm pipe in A34 Stone required to protect water levels of service in Stone	2011-2031	£1.7m	Severn Trent (AMP5). Developers funds on site mains
Sewage	Notional modelling indicate additional flows from housing is not expected to have significant impact on sewer capacity with foul flows draining to an existing sewage pumping station at Westbridge Park. Capacity issues are	Lead time of 3 years	£5.2m identified for all SDLs at Stafford and Stone. Investment allocated when	Not in current Asset Management Plan

Infrastructure Category	Requirements	Phasing	Capital Cost	Funding
	not envisaged with the new employment area due to the proximity of the sewage treatment works		new development is delivered	
Education	Extension of existing secondary school required to accommodate projected growth in pupils. School to be expanded yet to be determined. New Primary School provision to be included in Master Plan	2016+ 2016+	£2m (TBC)	DfE Capital Programme (under review) / Developer contributions. Developer contributions
Primary Healthcare	Project in development which could serve new development on the West of Stone	2016+	£5m (TBC)	GP consortium.
Telecommunications	Stone exchange is enabled with Superfast Fibre Access Broadband. No cost implication for developer over standard telecommunications infrastructure.	N/A	TBC	
Open Space	Will need to be planned in association with requirements for SANGs and local standards of provision.	2016+	Unknown	Developer contributions.

(Source: Adopted Plan for Stafford Borough (PfSB) Part 1 2014)

Local Green Space:

In March 2012, the Government made it possible for green spaces with a special community importance to qualify for a new protection status. This status is known as 'Local Green Space'. The Local Green Space status has been made possible through the introduction of the Localism Act and Natural Environment White Paper (2011) which influenced the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF).

The Natural Environment White Paper 2011 highlighted the "importance of green spaces to the health and happiness of local communities". Green spaces, particularly 'natural' green spaces, located close to local people provide a range of social, environmental and economic benefits including improved mental and physical health, increased social and physical activity and improvements to children's learning, improved community cohesion and sense of place. Environmental benefits include making places more attractive to live, work and play and to invest in and enhance wildlife habitats and corridors and provide for climate change adaptation.

The act of designating sites as Local Green Space is not intended to be a reactionary exercise which only takes into account sites under threat from development. Based on information in the UK Natural Environment White Paper (2011), the act of designating sites for Local Green Space protection is seen as a positive step towards recognising an area's unique value and worth.

Broad guidance for identifying sites worthy of Local Green Space designation is provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraphs 76-78). Further guidance is available in the Planning Practice Guidance, (PPG), Local Green Space Designation document dated 06/03/2014.

Criteria for Designation

Paragraph 19 of the PPG states that land does not have to be in public ownership to be designated Local Green Space. Neither does it need to have public access, (PPG paragraph 17). Reflecting NPPF paragraph 77, all sites must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated.
- 2) Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan.
- 3) Not an extensive tract of land.
- 4) Local in character.
- 5) In proximity to the area it serves.
- 6) Demonstrably special to the local community.

Additionally all sites must meet at least one of the following criteria:

Hold particular local significance....because of its beauty; its historical significance; its recreational value; its tranquillity; its wildlife; for any other reason.

With the inevitable increasing population comes the requirement to ensure that adequate and readily accessible local green space, and particularly natural green space, is available for the community to enjoy.

A key aspect of what makes Stone an attractive and desirable place to live is the current positive balance between green space, natural green space and the built environment which generates an overall 'feeling of space' as you move around the parish. Furthermore every approach into the town, be it by the A34 and Stafford Rd, A520 Moddershall Valley, the B5027 Lichfield and B5026 Eccleshall Roads, has trees and green space creating a pleasing experience and tempting visitors to explore the area further.

In designating the areas of Local Green Space in this Neighbourhood Plan, the aim is to preserve and where possible enhance such areas, thus maintaining all that is special and unique to Stone.

An assessment of green spaces across the town has been carried out using the NPPF criteria outlined above, and over 50 sites have been identified as Local Green Spaces. This assessment forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base. Following earlier community engagement the importance and value of Local Green Spaces within Stone was acknowledged. As such volunteers undertook an audit of all potential and existing spaces shown in appendix D, which provides a comprehensive list of all the sites identified for community consultation as Local Green Space. Following community consultation including work with statutory bodies, landowners, sports and social clubs and the wider community the following areas were formally nominated as Local Green Space. These are shown in appendix E and reflected in policy within the neighbourhood plan.

Examples of identified Local Green Spaces include:

- **Westbridge Park:** Westbridge Park is the largest park in Stone providing leisure and recreational facilities for the whole community. It takes its name from Westbridge House which once stood where the children's play area is sited today, and presumably that name had its origins in the fact it was west of the bridge that spans the River Trent. It is bounded by the Trent and Mersey Canal to the east and the Trent to the west. After the war and under the ownership of Stone Urban District Council, Westbridge House was demolished, and in 1951 the Park was opened as part of the Town's Festival of Britain celebrations. To commemorate the event, a pair of wrought iron gates were produced by a local blacksmith which still remain today at the pedestrian entrance. Some twenty two years later, agreement to the transfer of ownership of Westbridge Park to Stafford District Council, (now Stafford Borough Council), is evidenced in minutes of Stone Urban District Councils' meeting of the 18th December 1973.

The Park comes within the remit of policy CAF3, in that it is a recognised Asset of Community Value. It contains expansive areas of natural and semi natural green space along with three tennis courts, a formal children's play area, a skate park, scout and guide buildings and a fitness centre. It is also the home to the prestigious Stafford and Stone Canoe Club which since its establishment in 1973 is now recognised as one of Europe's' foremost canoe slalom clubs producing world class canoeists for GB teams. The Park provides a venue for many of the Town's annual events, and is a focal point

for festivities during the week long Summer Festival in June; the Spring Fun Fair; the Stone Food and Drink Festival on the first weekend in October, which has grown to become one of the Midlands' biggest and busiest gastronomic events; and the Stone Town Bonfire. As a contrast the Park also offers the opportunity for peaceful walks both along the river and within the meadows, where the adjoining woodland is also rich in flora and fauna.

- **Tilling Drive Allotments:** These allotments have existed for at least 40 years and contain around 100 plots. The land, previously owned by a private company, was donated to the community, resulting in the formation of Community Interest Company which oversees the allotments. The allotments are very well tended, and evidence a strong and inclusive community ethos with a communal area, a section for children to grow produce and an easy access area with raised beds. In particular, the 2014 Stafford Borough Council Green Awards commended these allotments for their 'Community Area'. They are highly valued by the local community for the benefits they bring such as exercise, a healthy lifestyle, the provision of home grown produce, and the opportunity for social interaction with like-minded people.
- **Nicholls Lane:** Is a 1.9 hectare Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace situated on the north-east periphery of Stone and lying within the Moddershall Valley Conservation Area. It is in private ownership. It has a public footpath, (Stone Town 13), which crosses the field south west to north east that is used on a daily basis, and particularly so by dog walkers, who may let their animals off the lead because there has been no grazing stock for many years. Other well-worn paths cross and circumnavigate the field. It is also used for other forms of informal recreation such as picnicing and sledging both in recent times and historically. The field abuts woodland designated as both a Site of Biological Importance for its flora, and a County Wildlife site. It is part of the green corridor formed by the valley, which extends outwards from the town to the Green Belt in the north and east. In this location the Green Belt defines the boundary of both the field and the town. The field has been subject to a planning application which was dismissed on Appeal, ref APP/Y3425/A/13/2203362. It is very highly valued by the local community who enjoy the beautiful views across the valley, its tranquillity, historical significance, and plentiful wildlife.
- **Millennium Way:** This area of approximately 1hectare encompasses five distinct and different sized parcels of landscaped amenity green space, planted with both trees and shrubs, which are bisected by the feeder road from the A34 to the Whitebridge housing

development and Industrial Estate. These parcels of land also back onto the Trent and Mersey canal and incorporate land to the east of Millennium Way. Together they constitute a significant piece of open space for informal recreational use by the community, as well as providing a habitat for wildlife, a paved link to walks by the canal and the countryside beyond, and enhancement of the entrance to the large Whitebridge housing development. All these factors help to promote a sense of well-being for the local community in the area. The section immediately next to the A34, which is planted with wild flowers, also creates a sense of space which is replicated in the main, on other gateway approaches into Stone, and is perceived as an important feature of the town.

Sport & Recreation: Stone's Sporting Future



Stone residents enjoy a variety of ways of being 'physically active', from active play and traditional sport to activities such as walking, dancing and gardening. Residents can attend an array of studio fitness/mobility and dance classes to participation amongst international and Olympic canoeists. The area is also particularly strong in club cricket, and all popular racket sports are represented by people playing tennis, badminton, table tennis and squash. It should be noted that senior residents have provision supported by U3A, for example croquet at Stone SP cricket club.

Stone people's social development and community spirit are enhanced in the 'fun of the outdoors', particularly on local market days and at its various festival events when raft races, running, dog derby and duck races are well received. Moreover, the town turned out 'in force' to support 'The Tour of Britain' cycle race.

The Trent floodplain containing local meadows and the town's main riverside park, makes a vital contribution to the well-being of Stone's population. Footpaths for walkers and routes for cycles cross these areas. These spaces are complemented by the Edwardian 'Stonefield



Park' and the recreational space on Tilling Drive. In close proximity to the flood plain are other natural and semi natural green spaces which include, 'Walton Common' and the ancient meadow of the 'Common Plot'. As previously highlighted, just outside the Neighbourhood Plan area is the 'Downs Banks' (National Trust), and Aston Marina (a popular local leisure & recreational centre). The lower section of the Moddershall Valley Conservation Area lies within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary and has a public footpath, (Stone Town 7), linking into the town via the Coppice Gardens housing development.

Most of Stone's more traditional Sports Capacity is located at Alleyne's Sports Centre, Westbridge Park Fitness Centre and Stone Lawn Tennis & Squash Club. Two local cricket teams have their own



facilities and one has hosted minor counties cricket in the past. Additional unmet demand is also taken up by small dedicated facilities in the private sector particularly in the areas of fitness and swimming whilst school halls provide additional capacity for fitness and dance classes.



It will be the aim of the Neighbourhood Plan to work with approved interested parties which promote the five key outcomes of the Government's new sporting strategy 'Sporting Future Accessibility'; physical well-being, mental well-being, individual development, social and community development, and economic development.

Tourism:

Stone is winner of nine consecutive gold medals, awarded to the town by the Royal Horticultural Society's Heart of England in Bloom. Stone is an attractive visitor destination and all efforts should be made by local authorities to provide affordable long stay and short stay parking, upgrade street furniture and maintain the canal and riverside walks.

Stone is a popular canal and market town, with good road, rail and canal links, close to many great tourist attractions such as Trentham Estate, Alton Towers and Wedgwood Pottery, all easily accessible from the town. Promotion of Stone's close proximity to these destinations should be maximised to encourage the passing tourism trade.

Stone has a great reputation for its festivals and street parties and every effort must be made to improve the marketing and promotion of events such as:

- Weekly Town Market.
- Monthly Farmers Market and Craft Market.
- June: the week long Summer Festival.
- July: Music Festival (Market Square).
- October: Stone Food and Drink Festival, one of the Midlands' biggest and busiest food festivals attracting thousands of visitors to the town.
- November: Christmas Lights switch on with a spectacular display of Christmas trees and lights, late night shopping, and fun fair.
- November: the annual bonfire held on Westbridge Park.
- All year round Stone in Bloom.

Events attract visitors who have the maximum effect in boosting the local economy by enjoying the hotels, bed and breakfasts, unique independent High Street shops, restaurants and the real ale trail pubs. The canal particularly attracts visitors to Stone from a wider area, and more moorings are essential to encourage longer stays in the town. Tourists who are looking for a more serious experience can trace the old market town history back to medieval times. St Michael's and St Wulfad's Church has a 12th century seal matrix of Stone Priory permanently on display. The seal attracts tourists from the UK and many parts of the world.

Also within the town boundary lies the lower section of the Moddershall Valley Conservation Area, which contains two out of an original ten watermills along the whole valley, which ground flint and bone to supply the developing, and eventually, very successful pottery industry in Stoke on Trent. Consequently there is potential to promote them as a further tourist attraction.

Stone has an established tourism base during the specific season of June to November; a programme should be developed, marketed and promoted to generate tourism during the town's "off season" to increase revenue for local businesses.

Character Areas:

The Stone Urban area comprises two distinct settlements: that to the east of the River Trent (which can itself be divided into 3 distinctive character areas); and Walton to the west of the river. These settlements are separated by a green corridor around the River Trent and between the river and the Trent and Mersey canal.

The 5 areas outlined above are described in terms of their distinctive features.

Centre of the Town:

Much of the centre of the town lies within Stone Conservation Area. It contains mainly retail and small businesses but there is also residential use, mainly apartments, including a number of retirement flats.

Commercial and retail uses are focused primarily along the High Street and directly off it. There is a relatively high proportion of independent retailers, a hotel, a number of banks, a GP surgery, a dental surgery, a mid-size convenience store, a number of restaurants, coffee shops and public houses, and several charity shops. There is a second larger supermarket and more apartment buildings just to the east of the High Street itself.

The High Street has restricted access to vehicles and is regarded as a safe place to walk and shop. It is home to popular monthly farmers markets and smaller weekly market days. A number of the upper floors of the commercial units in the High Street have been converted into apartments and this seems to be a growing trend.

The building stock in and around the High Street is for the most part Georgian and Victorian. The former date from the town's time as a market town, its position on the coaching routes from London to the North and Ireland and to the arrival of the canal and its associated businesses. The latter date from the town's industrialisation and growth in the mid-19th century (notably due to boot making and brewing). There are a small number of later infill developments both retail and residential.

There are places of worship in the centre of the town and also a town hall, a public library and a community centre. To the west of the canal the old workhouse has been converted into apartments and there is a small development of sympathetically designed new housing and a health centre.

There are more than 50 listed buildings and monuments within this area of the town of which five are Grade II* Listed. Several of the listings relate directly to the canal. There are also a number of unlisted buildings of townscape merit which provide interest and variety.

North of the Centre:

This area is delineated by the Longton Road (A520) running north-east out of Stone through the Moddershall Valley, the Newcastle Road running north to meet the A34 and by the settlement boundary. The area is largely residential and much of it is Victorian in origin complimented by

small clusters of post war developments. Airedale Road has a distinct residential character of large detached houses set within substantial gardens. This particular character provides a well-designed 'edge of development' facing towards the open countryside shown in Appendix B.

Part of the area lies within Stone Conservation Area, notably Kings Avenue, Granville Terrace and The Avenue. Most of the housing stock dates from mid-Victorian times with a few later Victorian/Edwardian houses and a few more modern infill developments.

The Victorian/Edwardian properties lying within the Conservation Area are typically large 2 or 3 story properties with small frontages and sizable back gardens. There are also a number of large properties of the same period on Oulton Road many of which have extensive land attached and in some cases this has been sold off for small scale infill development.

Most of the remaining area consists of Victorian terraced streets of what were once factory workers' cottages. These have no front gardens or off-street parking but enjoy modest back gardens. Good examples of such properties are to be found around Stonefield Park.

Properties a little further from the centre of town in and around along Mount Road and Newcastle Road consist largely of mid to late 20th century housing. Beyond the Newcastle Road and at the end of Mount Road and bounded by the canal Navigation Loop, a modern housing development comprising for the large part 4 and 5 bedroom houses interspersed with some smaller properties and apartments.

Just north of the centre there is the 19th century St Dominic's Church, alongside St Dominic's School and Care Home. A little further north is the Grade II Listed Railway Station and on the Newcastle Road, the Stone Tennis and Squash Club.

At its farthest reach the area to the north is also home to 2 light industrial estates and there is also light industry and commercial offices situated in the old Joules brewery buildings on the Newcastle Road and close to the centre itself.

The northern area contains several places of worship and area is served by Christchurch First and Middle Schools and by Stone's only secondary school, Alleyne's Academy. There are around 30 Listed Buildings and monuments in the area to the north of which 5 relate directly to the canal.

The area also contains valuable green space, notably Stonefield Park and the area is bounded to the north by the Common Plot, several acres of land left in trust and dedicated to the leisure and recreation of the people of Stone.

South of the Centre:

The area south of the centre is delineated by the canal to its west, the A51 to the south and the settlement boundary to the east. Its main road artery is the Lichfield Road. It is almost exclusively residential with older Georgian and Victorian housing stock close to the centre and more modern post-war developments of differing size and style lying beyond this.

Housing development along the Lichfield Road is typically of older post-war stock often set back from the road and enjoying sizeable gardens. In particular the north side of Lichfield Road between Uttoxeter Road and Aston Lodge Brook is a good example of this distinct character set within an area of denser more recent developments shown in Appendix C.

The more recent housing, comprises a series of moderate sized developments between road and canal and generally smaller in-fill developments lying between the road and the railway line.

At the limit of the settlement boundary to the south east and beyond the railway, lies the Aston Lodge Park development, with several hundred modern homes accessed directly off the Uttoxeter Road.

There are green spaces evident across the area and other green space evident at Stone Cricket Club situated on the Lichfield Road and Little Stoke Cricket and Bowls Clubs on the Uttoxeter Road.

The area is served by St Michael's C of E first school situated on Weavers Lane off the Lichfield Road. There is also a GP surgery just south of the town centre itself.

West of the River:

This area is bounded by the River Trent to the east and the settlement boundary to the west and falls within the Walton settlement. The main road arteries are the A34 that bisects the area north to south and the Eccleshall road running east to west. The area is largely residential and consists for the most part of post-war housing developments however the northern boundary is formed by Stone Golf Club and the southern boundary by the growing Stone Business Park.

There are a number of Victorian properties along the Stafford Road though for the most part Walton comprises post-war housing developments. The older housing stock is on the northern

section of the A34 (The Fillybrooks) and the Eccleshall Road close to the A34. All are set back from the road and often enjoy sizeable gardens.

Later developments continue to expand the settlement beyond its original boundaries. There are sizable more mature developments between the river and the A34 and between the A34 and the settlement boundary, each comprising several hundred homes and a number of apartments. An infill development of modern housing is currently being built just west of the A34.

Walton is expected to see considerable further housing development along its western boundary in the coming years with the designation of more than 500 additional houses specified in the Local Plan.

There are a number of green spaces evident and a small park and playground on Whitemill Lane. There are 5 Listed Buildings and monuments in the area that are clustered around the Stafford Road.

The area is served by Manor Hill and Pirehill First Schools (on Manor Rise and Pirehill Lane respectively) and Walton Priory Middle School on Beacon Rise.

There are also three small retail parades in Walton, one on the Eccleshall Road just west of the A34, one on Pirehill Lane and the third at the Stafford Road roundabout. Stone Community Fire Station lies on the A34 north of Stafford Road.

River and Canal Corridor:

The river and canal corridor runs north-south through Stone and forms in itself a distinctive character area.

To its west lies ribbon housing development and the A34, to the east the canal and close to the town centre is mostly older housing stock and further north from the town centre more modern developments.

The corridor itself comprises valued green space, including grazing land, meadowland, designated nature reserves and Westbridge Park which is used extensively for leisure and recreation purposes. The Park hosts a number of successful annual festivals and is also home to Stone Canoe Club and Scouts and Guiding.

Much of the river corridor is on designated flood plain.

The Trent and Mersey Canal has played an important role in the town's development, and continues to do so to this day. It forms a key element of Stone's leisure and tourism offer, and is an important part of the town's infrastructure. The canal corridor also supports a range of employment opportunities, including at the Grade II Listed Grand Trunk Wharf, which still provides boat repair services.

Each of the five Special Character Areas identified have a distinct character. Special Character Area North and Special Character Area South are predominantly residential, comprising of properties set within large gardens. Through the community engagement the issue of development of infill housing within garden plots was identified, the neighbourhood plan undertook further community engagement with residents of these two areas, proposing a policy to safeguard the gardens from development of additional residential units within the gardens, which would change and harm the special character.

On balance, reviewing the responses the material considerations meant that Special Character Area North was proposed as a policy area and Special Character Area South whilst still been recognised as an important area was not included in the policy.

Gateways and Views:

Stone is a town acknowledged for the quality of its built heritage, unique positioning alongside river and canal, excellent leisure and recreation facilities and a growing tourism sector. Its successful development and realisation of our vision will depend to an important degree upon conserving and enhancing the local character and the views in and around its town centre.

To this end it is possible to identify a number of important gateways to the Centre, each requiring specific recognition and consideration.

Gateway 1: Stafford Road (A520)

The Stafford Road is the main gateway to the Town from the South (Stafford via the A34) and West (Eccleshall Road) and arguably the most heavily used.

The road crosses the River Trent and affords most important views along the river, across the river flood plain and meadows to the north; and across the green expanse of Westbridge Park to the south.

Particularly noteworthy are the impressive views from the road of the roof lines of the town centre straight ahead and those across Westbridge Park to the Grade II Listed The Moorings and to the tower of the Grade II* Listed Church of St Michael.

Gateway 2: Longton Road (A520)

The Longton Road is the main gateway to the Town from the north east and is also heavily used.

The road reaches the Town Centre via the northern boundary of the Stone Town Conservation Area having passed through the adjacent Moddershall Valley Conservation Area.

As it enters the town centre the road affords important views of parts of Victorian Stone and in particular the old Co-op bakery building and the imposing Church of St John, (Grade II listed and currently unused).

Gateway 3: Lichfield Road

The Lichfield Road is the main entrance from Lichfield and enters via the southern residential area.

The road reaches the town centre as Lichfield Street as it passes imposing Georgian and Victorian housing stock and some independent retail stores. It affords important views across the town centre and of the built heritage of the High Street including several Grade II listed buildings.

Gateway 4: Railway Station/Station Approach

Stone's mid Victorian railway station is itself Grade II listed and affords an interesting entrance to the Town Centre for the increasing number of railway travellers from as far away as London to the south and Manchester and Crewe to the north.

It has an imposing and attractive facade and is positioned at the head of Station Approach, a road that leads directly into the town centre at Granville Square passing by for the most part Victorian housing stock and St Dominic's School and Church, (Grade II listed).

Gateway 5: Trent and Mersey Canal

The Trent and Mersey Canal forms the boundary of the town centre running north to south and affords an interesting entrance to the town centre for the growing numbers of canal boat tourists.

The southern approach affords attractive views over Westbridge Park to the west and the Moorings (Grade II listed) to the east. The northern approach enters the Town alongside the old wharves, many now light industrial units and several Grade II listed buildings and monuments.

The canal passes numerous buildings and spaces of historic interest that are often listed buildings or places of townscape merit including the Star Inn, the Crown Wharf, the old Workhouse (now residential apartments), the old Joules Brewery Warehouse and the canal-side boatyards, several of which are also Grade II listed.

Town Centre and Markets:

Commercial and retail uses are focused primarily along the High Street and directly off it. It has a relatively high proportion of independent retailers as well as retail chain stores such as W.H. Smiths, Boots and a Midlands Co-Op. The latter contains the town's only post office. Barclays, NatWest and Lloyds Banks plus the Hanley Economic and Leek Building Society provide visitors and residents with adequate financial services. The historic listed Crown Hotel sits in the centre of the High Street.

It also contains one of the two GP surgeries in the town, one of the four dental surgeries, a number of restaurants, coffee shops and public houses, and several charity shops. There is a second larger supermarket and more apartment buildings just to the east of the High Street itself. Other services found in the High Street are three pharmacies, two opticians, and Re-Solv, the UK's leading agency working to end volatile substance abuse and support those whose lives are affected by these and other 'legal' highs.

Defibrillators are placed at either end of the town and have proved very valuable in their usage.

Stone Town Council Offices just north of the High Street along Station Road, also accommodates the Stone Police Post, a Citizens Advice Bureau and Stone and District Age Concern. Although the Police Post has no permanently based police officers on site, it is manned from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and is linked to the central Police Control Room. There are two Police Officers and one PCSO that cover Stone and the surrounding area. The CAB, due to funding cuts, has had to reduce appointment availability in Stone, requiring visits to the Stafford Office for some Stone residents. Age Concern offers a free advice service,

available five mornings a week, for anyone over the age of fifty. The library in the Market Square is a focal point for information and internet access.

There are places of worship in the centre of the town, and the Frank Jordan Community centre is situated just south of the High Street on the Lichfield Road.

It is felt shop frontages would benefit from a more uniform approach, in-keeping with the Conservation Area status, creating a more attractive High Street. There also needs to be a focus on bringing new business back to the small number of vacant shops, ideally of an independent nature, which will enhance visitor interest in the town and hopefully increase footfall.

Although with restricted access during the day, in the evening the Market Square can become congested with parked cars accessing the local restaurants. It is therefore essential to retain sufficient free car parking space close to the town centre to ensure the High Street and Market Square remains a user friendly pedestrian area at any time of the day or night.

The Market Square generates considerable income for the town, and is an important public space with a cosmopolitan atmosphere, with local restaurants putting out tables and chairs for diners. Situated in the middle of the High Street, it is a multi-functional area used for social interaction for both formal and informal social and cultural activities, encouraging residents and visitors to come together, strengthening the communal spirit of the town. Festivals and street parties place their stage in the market square making it the main focal point for audiences. Reflecting the importance of the area, Stone Town Council has invested in the square, paving it with York Stone and installing electricity points available for stall holders who attend both the weekly markets and the monthly Farmers' Market.

Stone has a long history of being a market town, dating back to the 13th century and still had a livestock market until its closure in the early 1990's. For the past 12 years, the Farmers market has provided a vibrant street theatre on the first Saturday of every month with over 50 traders regularly attending. Currently the town's market days are Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays with average number of stalls being 5, 7, and 4 respectively. Every third Saturday of the month there is a Craft and Collectables market.

The street theatre that is created by the Farmers Market is now a significant feature in the economy of the town, drawing people into the High Street and facilitating a sales peak for the local retailers. The many food stalls participating help to reinforce the towns' credentials as a destination for food, drink and leisure activities. It is an aspiration to build on this success and encourage increased participation in the regular weekly markets to provide greater reason to

shop in the High Street. In growing these weekly markets care must be taken to encourage complimentary offerings to the permanent retailers rather than introducing competitive elements.

It is believed an opportunity exists to grow the speciality markets, such as a Continental market, Spring themed market, and a Christmas Market.

Well-Being:

The importance of well-being or quality of life for Stone residents was made clear in the Neighbourhood Plan public consultation, when residents were invited to put forward their views about their town. The link between well-being, green infrastructure and recreation, with free access to open green space is highly valued. Westbridge Park in the middle of the town is of particular importance and the descriptive term used most was “our green lung in Stone”. Local facilities such as play and recreation areas for young people are under-provided in Stone and those that do exist are poorly equipped. Westbridge Park should be the natural location for such investment.

The park is used by large groups of young people who congregate there particularly in the summer months playing games and enjoying their surroundings. It is also popular for families, young children learning to ride their bicycles, dog walking, picnics and relaxing by the canal and river. A number of running clubs and Stone Ramblers use Westbridge Park and the two annual festivals held there attract visitors from a large area. The preparation for the summer festival is enjoyed by many community groups and schools, building and making the floats, and growing and producing fruit and vegetables for the festival. The festival promotes a general feeling of wellbeing amongst a substantial section of the towns’ population.

Stone is home to four dental surgeries, two opticians, a number of chiropodists, chiropractors, physiotherapists and two GP’s surgeries with a third close by in Barlaston. As is the case in many areas of the country, access to doctors is becoming increasingly difficult and this is an ongoing concern raised by the community given the required housing growth over the plan period. The provision of Primary Health Care will be required to increase capacity either at existing facilities or by the delivery of a new additional service elsewhere in the town.

Hospital services are provided through The Royal Stoke University Hospital and the smaller County Hospital at Stafford.

Sports facilities are sparse with no league team football played within Stone. Team rugby, netball, cricket and hockey are available, albeit some activities take part just outside boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan Area. All these contribute to the health and wellbeing of many team members of all ages. There are a number of private golf courses close to the town and three outdoor bowling greens, plus a private tennis and squash club. Alleynes High school provides indoor facilities such as squash, badminton and an indoor swimming pool used by schools and members of the public. Recently St Dominic's Priory School has enjoyed great success in indoor rowing.

Stone is home to a considerable number of privately owned retirement apartments and the U3A offers a number of recreational activities held in local community buildings specifically aimed at an older generation.

It is hoped eventually, through an increase in recreational resources, that there will be satisfactory provision of facilities for all age groups, thus benefitting the health and wellbeing of all members of the community.

Movement and Legibility:

By virtue of the A34 and A51 bypassing Stone town centre it is all too easy to drive along these routes and not notice the town.

On the main through routes signage is bland and uninviting, often hidden by foliage and sometimes cluttered with housing development signage (see photo). In such situations passing traffic may associate bland signage with featureless town, despite the signs advertising the fact it is a Canal town. By failing to impress and provide incentive to draw the passing visitor into the town, opportunities are lost to strengthen its economy through visitor spend. For those visitors who do come into the town, signage within the town is limited and in the wrong locations. Moreover, there are no signs thanking visitors for their visit as they leave the town boundary.

Signage, whether for road users or pedestrians, is a vital part of making Stone welcoming. Particularly within the High Street, and from the Canal for those arriving by boat, signage is

essential for guiding visitors around the town, enabling them to explore and enjoy all it has to offer as well as highlighting essential services and facilities.

Given the unusually large amount of green infrastructure with its river and canal links within a very short distance of the town centre, signage to designated circular walks would be beneficial, allowing visitors to combine a stroll with a drink or meal afterwards in the town centre, thus boosting the local economy.

All of the above needs to be addressed, and by example, photographs of other towns of a similar size which have a more creative and welcoming presence, are evidenced below. It is acknowledged these are matters that cannot be addressed by policies within the Neighbourhood Plan, but in order to ensure the vitality of the town, Stone Town Council will need to work with partners to devise ways to increase visitor footfall.



The roundabouts north and south of the town on the A34 are uninspiring except for the southern roundabout in summer which is planted with wild flowers.

Ideally Stone would benefit from signs as detailed in the photographs below.



Future direction:

Stone needs:

- New eye catching signage when coming into Stone along the A34, to encourage passing traffic to take a detour into the town from the Walton or Whitebridge roundabouts.
- Clear direction and heritage signs both in the town and on the outskirts directing visitors into the central hub.
- Clear car parking signage.
- Definitive visitor information signs.
- Information Boards for visitors to stop and read – e.g. Things you don't know about Stone.
- Promote and deliver Heritage tours and walks to celebrate the diverse history of Stone and its Heritage Assets.



Examples of appealing signage and well- presented and colourful roundabouts

Vision and Aims:

VISION FOR STONE:

In 2031, Stone will be notable as a thriving market town alongside the river and canal, with an attractive and accessible historic centre, a high quality network of green space, a wide range of leisure and recreational activities, a successful tourism sector, high quality local services and a diversity of local employment opportunities.

SA1: Improve the economic viability of the High Street and the town centre by encouraging and incentivising new businesses, enabling local businesses to thrive and providing a diverse range of shopping and other services.

SA2: Preserve and enhance the special historic character and heritage assets of Stone by supporting initiatives to repair, refurbish and re-use historic buildings and to improve the quality of the environment.

SA3: Identify and designate important areas of local green space and develop a green infrastructure strategy to protect and improve those areas.

SA4: Support initiatives for the review of the town's transport and traffic needs, and support relevant actions to address those needs.

SA5: Improve pedestrian and cycle links and accessibility within Stone and to surrounding destinations, particularly the canal and river meadows.

SA6: Protect and improve leisure, cultural and sports facilities and improve community access to those facilities.

SA7: Support initiatives for the enhancement of essential local community facilities, including medical and educational facilities as appropriate, ensuring that they are sustainable and fit for purpose.

SA8: Ensure that new developments in Stone preserve and enhance the town's historic character and improve the quality of the natural and built environment.

Land Use Policies:

Growth Strategy:

The Growth Strategy for Stone has three key elements:

1. Housing growth to cater for a growing and ageing population, whilst addressing local housing needs;
2. Reinforcing Stone Town Centre's role as a place to visit, shop, and access high quality local services; and
3. Deliver new high quality green infrastructure, and preserve and enhance key local environmental assets.

The Growth Strategy will be delivered through:

- Strategic housing site allocations through the Local Plan (Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1), and infill opportunities within the urban envelope;
- A series of enabling policies; and
- The development of a Neighbourhood Development Order for Stone Town Centre.

Identified policy areas are as follows:

1. Housing: to ensure that identified local housing needs are addressed, and that new homes are delivered to high standards of design and sustainability;
2. Business and Employment: to enable economic diversification, and reinforce the role of Stone Town Centre; and
3. Community Assets and Facilities: to ensure that growth in Stone is supported by high quality facilities and environmental assets.

Housing:

The Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1 2011-2031 adopted June 2014 states that within the settlement boundaries, there would be a presumption in favour of supporting housing and employment development, subject to any other relevant planning considerations. It also goes on to state that it is intended that development allocations for specific sites will be identified through the Settlement Boundaries through the Neighbourhood Planning Process. The purpose of the housing policies is to ensure that local housing needs are addressed as per Policy Stone 1 – Stone Town, and Policy Stone 2 – West and South of Stone, of the Local Plan, and that high standards of design and sustainability are secured.

A number of sites for new housing have been identified through the Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1 2011-2031 adopted June 2014 process the *“distribution proposed in Spatial Principle SP4 reflects the consideration of alternative development strategies through the successive consultation stages of preparing the current Plan, and taking account of the Sustainability Appraisal process. As a result new development focused on the County Town of Stafford, the market town of Stone and a number of principal settlements have been identified as the most sustainable choice for distributing new development.”*

The Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1 sets out that Stone Town has a total requirement of 1,000 new homes over the plan period. Completions since the start of the plan are 279 and commitments up to 31/03/2016 were 859. This gives a current position of 1,138 new homes which is an additional 13.8% provision above the original number allocated.

The allocation of new homes has been met in part through strategic site allocations and planning approvals. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2015 (SHLAA) states *“the majority of the housing need will be met through the 4 SDL’s.”* Stone includes one of the 4 SDL’s identified in the plan for the borough. The Stone SDL seeks to deliver key infrastructure requirements to enable the sustainable growth of the area. A recent outline planning application for the SDL reference 13/19002/OUT for Walton Hill Residential Development, West of Longhope Drive, Stone granted planning permission for 500 new homes. These are taken into account within the current figures mentioned previously.

The Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1 identifies that in terms of *“housing type, Stone and environs has a significant oversupply of detached properties to the detriment of mid-sized units such as semi-detached properties and terraced housing. There is also a pressing need for more affordable housing to meet current and future demand.”*

These policies seek to meet the following aims of the Neighbourhood Plan:

SA2: Preserve and enhance the special historic character and heritage assets of Stone by supporting initiatives to repair, refurbish and re-use historic buildings and to improve the quality of the environment.

SA4: Support initiatives for the review of the town's transport and traffic needs, and support relevant actions to address those needs.

SA5: Improve pedestrian and cycle links and accessibility within Stone and to surrounding destinations, particularly the canal and river meadows.

Rationale and Evidence:

To address identified local housing needs, and provide a balanced mix of new homes, in a planned, well-designed and sustainable manner, as outlined by strategic policies within the Local Plan (Plan for Stafford Borough), and supporting evidence such as the 'Stone Rural Hub Town Profile'. The Local Plan (Plan for Stafford Borough), identifies in the development strategy for Stone Policy Stone 1; *"provides 1,000 new homes over the plan period, including a higher proportion of smaller dwellings (semi-detached and terraced) and affordable homes."*

Good design is indivisible from good planning and achieving sustainable development, and the National Planning Policy Framework recognises that well-designed buildings and places improve the quality of people's lives and that it is a core planning principle to achieve good design.

Policy H1: Housing Tenures and Types

A range of housing needs have been identified through the Local Plan process, and in terms of housing types and tenures, development proposals must address these. Identified needs include:

- Affordable housing, including homes for social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership, and starter homes; and
- Housing for the older population such as supported housing, and downsizing and rightsizing opportunities.

House types should include semi-detached and terraced housing.

Rationale and Evidence:

Good design will ensure that proposed developments are sustainable. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognises that well-designed buildings and places improve the quality of people's lives and that it is a core planning principle to achieve good design. This includes considerations such as pedestrian convenience and safety, movement, natural surveillance, quality of the public realm, townscape character and consideration of the natural environment and wildlife.

Neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics.

The historic market town of Stone, has a Conservation Area and many listed buildings and heritage assets, it is also necessary to consider local character. Design policies will enhance the character and appearance of the area of Stone and the Conservation Area, and will support the aims of strategic policies within the Local Plan – for example Policy Stone 1 and Policy Stone 2 – and responds to the findings of the 'Stone Historic Character Assessment'.

Policy H2: Housing Design

New development in Stone must deliver high quality design. In order to achieve this, new development must accord with the following:

- Respond to the existing character of the town, and Conservation Area, by providing active frontages to streets and spaces and responding to nearby development in terms of enclosure and degree of set-back;
- Be well integrated with its surroundings by reinforcing existing connections and creation of new ones, while respecting local character and appearance;
- Provide convenient access to community services and facilities;
- Have good access to public transport or otherwise help reduce car dependency;
- Create a place with a locally inspired or distinctive character, complementing the existing character;
- Respect and enhance local topography, landscape and water features, trees and plants, wildlife habitats, existing buildings, site orientation and microclimate;
- Provide buildings, landscaping and planting that create attractive streets and spaces;
- Take advantage and respect views into and out of sites in order to make the

development easy to access and navigate through;

- Provide streets that encourage low vehicle speeds and which can function as safe, social spaces;
- Integrate car parking within landscaping so that it does not dominate the streets, and ensure that car parking requirements can be catered for on plot;
- Clearly distinguish between public and private spaces, for example by avoiding placing rear gardens next to road frontages;
- Provide convenient, well-screened storage space for bins and recycling, and for bicycles and motor vehicles;
- Be of an appropriate scale and density in relation to the wider town context;
- Include high quality and recycled materials which complement those used in the surrounding area; and
- Not create unnecessary light pollution by having bright, permanently lit areas at night.

Innovative design solutions will be welcomed.

Development of infill housing within large existing plots ('garden grabbing') will be resisted where such plots have been identified as playing an important role in the character of a particular area (e.g. within the identified Special Character Area). This area is [identified in: Appendix B Plan of Character Area North](#)

The Design and Access Statement accompanying relevant planning applications must explain how the proposed development addresses the above, and how the design responds to the specific site and context.

Business and Employment:

It is recognised that Stone is located between two major economic centres: the Potteries conurbation, and the county town of Stafford. However, Stone is home to a diverse business base, and Stone Town Centre will continue to play a vital role in driving the local economy. Business and employment policies are concerned with responding to changes in work patterns, and reinforcing the role of Stone Town Centre.

These policies seek to meet the following aims of the neighbourhood Plan:

SA1: Improve the economic viability of the High Street and the town centre by encouraging and incentivising new businesses, enabling local businesses to thrive and providing a diverse range of shopping and other services.

SA8: Ensure that new developments in Stone preserve and enhance the town's historic character and improve the quality of the natural and built environment.

Rationale and Evidence:

To encourage sustainable patterns of development, and support economic diversification in order to reduce the high levels of commuting identified in the 'Stone Rural Hub Town Profile', and Local Plan evidence base.

Policy BE1: Small Home Based Business

Policy BE1 is designed to encourage economic diversification and sustainable patterns of development. Support will be provided for:

- Proposals for the conversion or extension of existing residential properties or the development of new buildings within a residential plot for commercial uses to provide opportunities for new start-up businesses.
- The expansion and diversification of existing businesses where it can be demonstrated that proposals are compatible with residential uses, will not impact adversely on residential amenity, and do not contribute to an over-intensification of business uses within established residential areas.

New housing will be encouraged to include opportunities for home working and opportunities to cater for home based business, where it can be demonstrated that the principles set out in Policy H2 will not be compromised.

Rationale and Evidence:

To ensure the continued vitality and viability of the town centre as a key location for economic growth, a place to visit, and a place to access a range of local services, in accordance with Policy Stone 1 – Stone Town of the Local Plan, and the ‘Stone Rural Hub Town Profile’.

The Local Plan (Plan for Stafford Borough) identifies in Spatial Principle SP3 that by *“encouraging the development and expansion of the town centre to provide a vibrant place where people can meet, shop, eat and spend leisure time in a safe and pleasant environment.”* This would enhance the sustainable viability of the town, through the evidence gathered through community consultation it was identified that specific uses and sites should be promoted through policies in the Neighbourhood Development Plan to enable a sustainable, thriving market town.

Policy BE2: Stone Town Centre and Local Retailing

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of Stone Town Centre (as defined on the Proposals Plan), and this will be achieved by:

- Proposals for residential use at ground floor level within the Primary and Secondary Frontages will not be supported;
- Any non-A1 use must be complementary to adjacent shopping uses in terms of its operational characteristics and retain a display frontage appropriate to the shopping area;
- Major town centre use proposals outside of the defined town centre must comply with the sequential approach to site selection, and applicants must demonstrate that there are no suitable and available sites within the defined centre that could accommodate such development. Such proposals should also be supported by an Economic Impact Assessment;
- Planning permission will be granted for accessible, edge-of-centre sites that relate well to the town centre and are accessible by public transport, subject to other requirements of this Plan. Out-of-centre proposals are not sustainable and will not be supported unless there are no suitable town centre or edge-of-centre sites available;
- Planning permission will be granted for retail, leisure, and other commercial development of a scale and type appropriate to the role and function of the town centre;
- Adequate car parking facilities in suitable locations must be provided to serve town centre developments; they must also be accessible via public transport, walking, and

cycling, and must also be well-designed and appropriately landscaped;

- Town centre regeneration proposals must seek to connect to, and where appropriate, improve existing or proposed Public Rights of Way, and multi-user trails; and
- Active ground floor frontages (such as doors and windows) must be created and maintained through uses appropriate to the town centre.

This policy and other measures will be backed by a Neighbourhood Development Order for the town centre (see Section 9).

Community Assets and Facilities:

Whilst Stone is catering for growth, it is also important that this is supported by the delivery of, or enabling access to a range of high quality community facilities and open spaces. Policies to support community assets and facilities focus on:

- Local play, sports and recreational facilities;
- Green infrastructure and environmental assets; and
- Community facilities.

These policies seek to meet the following aims of the Neighbourhood Plan:

SA3: Identify and designate important areas of local green space and develop a green infrastructure strategy to protect and improve those areas.

SA6: Protect and improve leisure, cultural and sports facilities and improve community access to those facilities.

SA7: Support initiatives for the enhancement of essential local community facilities, including medical and educational facilities as appropriate, ensuring that they are sustainable and fit for purpose.

SA8: Ensure that new developments in Stone preserve and enhance the town's historic character and improve the quality of the natural and built environment.

Rationale and Evidence:

To ensure that local people have access to a range of high quality sports and recreational facilities, that development proposals provide appropriate provision and support towards new facilities, and enhancements, in accordance with strategic policies within the Local Plan (e.g. Policy 1 – Stone Town, and Policy 2 – West and South of Stone), and Fields in Trust guidance.

Policy CAF1: Local Play, Sports and Recreational Facilities

Access to high quality play, sports and recreational facilities is an important element of sustainability, and residential development proposals must deliver or contribute to such facilities where this is viable and deliverable, in line with Fields In Trust quantity benchmark guidance, as follows:

- 5-10 dwellings: Local Area for Play;
- 10-200 dwellings: Local Area for Play and a Locally Equipped Area for Play;
- 201-500 dwellings: Local Area for Play, a Locally Equipped Area for Play, a contribution to a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play, and a Multi-Use Games Area; and
- 501+ dwellings: Local Area for Play, a Locally Equipped Area for Play, a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play, and a Multi-Use Games Area.

Planning applications must also be supported by an assessment of the level of formal outdoor space (including sports facilities) that proposals should deliver, in line with Fields In Trust recommended benchmark guidance.

Rationale and Evidence:

To ensure that local people have access to a range of high quality open spaces and environmental assets, and that development proposals provide appropriate provision and support towards delivering or enabling access to such assets.

*

Paragraph 70 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that “to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- Plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses, places of worship, and public conveniences) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and
- Ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

Where a proposal involves a recognised Asset of Community Value as determined by the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, this recognition may be a material consideration in the determination of any planning application related to it.

In the Local Plan (plan for Stafford Borough) strategic policy C7 Open Space, Sport and Recreation, seeks to ensure that there is a presumption against the loss of any community facility where the need is proven and that *“new development that generates a local need provides commensurate level and quality of facilities.”*

Policy CAF2: Green Infrastructure

Access to high quality green spaces and environmental assets is an important element of sustainability, and development proposals must deliver access to, or contribute to enabling access to such assets through s106 or CIL contributions where this viable and deliverable.

Planning applications must also be supported by an assessment of the level of informal outdoor space that proposals should deliver.

When considering planning applications great weight shall be given to preserving and enhancing important green elements (space, trees, etc.) that form part of the overall kinetic and spatial experience of Stone.

Rationale and Evidence:

This policy aims to improve and enhance important views, vistas and spaces across Stone, in accordance with the ‘Stone Historic Character Assessment’. The adopted Local Plan identifies in the spatial vision for Stone that by 2031 the town will have *“conserved and enhanced the local character of the town and its canal side vistas.”*

The Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1, policy N9 Historic Environment clearly identifies the significance of the character and setting of heritage assets. The policy ensures that any development proposal that would affect the significance of a heritage should take into account a number of factors, including significant views and vistas.

Through the community engagement and during a ‘Town Tour’ event in March 2016 key views and vistas were identified and marked on the plan accompanying this policy. It was acknowledged that the setting, views and appearance of the historic market town were an important factor to the tourism economy of the area and these should be safeguarded and enhanced.

Policy CAF3: Protected Views and Vistas

Policy CAF3 has been designed to protect and enhance significant local views of important buildings, townscape, and skylines, and to enhance the overall kinetic and spatial experience of built and green environment as you move around Stone.

The following views and vistas have been identified as being locally important:

- Along the River Trent corridor and flood plain;
- From Stafford Road towards the town centre;
- From Westbridge Park to the Moorings and tower of the Church of St Michaels;
- From Longton Road towards various historic buildings, including the Church of St John;
- From Lichfield Road towards the town centre;
- The Station Approach vista;
- Views and vistas along the Trent and Mersey Canal corridor; and
- Views into the urban area from the A34.

The Design and Access Statement that supports planning applications for developments that may affect these views and vistas must demonstrate how the proposal would enhance them.

Rationale and Evidence:

This policy aims to provide, improve and enhance the Local Green Spaces enabling small-scale development that compliment the use or facilities and ensures that any new development does not compromise the open quality of the space. This policy aims to ensure that new development takes account of Open Green Spaces.

The Local Green Spaces identified in the Neighbourhood Plan demonstrate their value to Stone and the wider community. These have been designated through the Neighbourhood Plan with a total of [insert number here] designated.

The Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1 identifies key local plan objectives for Stone, one of these is to deliver *“New open space sport and recreational facilities including indoor and outdoor provision to meet the needs of the community.”*

The Local Green Spaces allocated by this plan must remain as such

Development must not take place on the Local Green Spaces allocated by this plan, unless exceptional circumstances

Policy CAF4: Local Green Space

The Local Green Spaces allocated in this plan must not be developed. Development will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances, small-scale development may be allowed where it does not compromise the open quality of the space and enhances its community value.

Local Green Space Designation

Rationale and Evidence:

During the community engagement of the neighbourhood plan when asked the question “What do you like about Stone and What do you think should be preserved and retained?” the highest scoring issues identified was green open spaces, with people also identifying key areas including Westbridge Park, Common Plot, Stonefield Park, Walton Common, River walks, allotments, Crown Meadow, Trent Meadow and Nicholl’s Lane field.

Further evidence was collated that also identified the canal and towpath walks as a key feature of the area, river valley and river valley walks and the rural nature and character of Stone. Some of the green open spaces provide annual functions for the town, becoming the venue for events such as Stone festival, Food festival and Bonfire night. These were also cited as key aspects that people identified as responses to the question.

During the community engagement process the further question “What do you dislike about Stone and what are the problems that need to be dealt with?” was posed. Relating to open green spaces the Stone Neighbourhood Plan Stage 1 consultation report also highlighted:

- *Inadequate leisure facilities especially for children and young people, e.g. playground, park, cinema, youth centre*
- *Commercial development on Westbridge Park land or river flood plain should not go ahead; M&S / supermarket developments outside the town centre should be stopped*

The question “What do you think should be changed in Stone and what improvements should be made?” also shown in the Stone Neighbourhood Plan Stage 1 consultation report highlighted:

- ***Provide new improved leisure centre with sports facilities, swimming pool, fitness and play facilities at Westbridge Park.***
- ***Put a limit on further housing growth and expansion of the town; no more building on floodplain; any growth should have corresponding improvements to infrastructure and services.***
- ***Protect and enhance green spaces, especially Westbridge Park, Nicholls Lane field, Tilling Drive green space, areas by the canal and river; designate areas of Local Green Space.***

- **Improve road safety and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists**, introduce traffic calming measures, e.g. junction of Old Road and Newcastle Road, A51 bypass; Lichfield Road; across one-way system; to canal and Westbridge; encourage more sustainable modes of transport, cycle ways and footpaths; improve connectivity with green spaces; improve links between town and Walton; better pedestrian links to business park.
- **Improve facilities for teenagers**, including scout huts, adventure playground, cinema, 10 pin bowling, football, bike a skate park, youth club.

Stone has many positive features, which make it an attractive place to live. Local people generally have a high regard for Stone and appreciate its many assets, most notably the green open spaces in and around the town, its shopping and other facilities, the ambience of Stone as a historic market town, its thriving community spirit, and the wide range of leisure and recreational activities available to residents. Stone has good transport links to nearby towns and cities, local job opportunities, good schools, and access to the canal and river meadows, which are close to the heart of the town.

These assets have made Stone a desirable place to live and, as the second largest settlement in Stafford Borough, this has made it a focus for new housing development and, to a lesser extent, employment development. In recent years the town has seen significant housing growth, which is set to continue in the site allocations made by the latest Stafford Borough Local Plan. During the Stage 1 consultation a number of local people expressed a desire to limit housing growth in Stone, because of the adverse impact this is having on local infrastructure and on local green space. A number of people emphasised the importance of protecting and enhancing existing areas of open green space, which are important to the local community.

Forming part of the evidence base a Green Space Audit was undertaken. This identified 49 sites of Local Green Space applying the NPPF criteria. These sites were then checked against criteria that may remove them from possible designation such as subject to a planning permission with [insert number of sites here] site remaining. These were then formally consulted on with a community event in the town, consulting local sports groups and organisations, residents groups and the sports and leisure team at Stafford Borough Council asking for positive and negative comments about the sites identified in the Green Space Audit. Following this process and consideration of the comments collected the final number of [insert number of sites here] were identified as those to be included in the neighbourhood plan as Local Green Space designations.

The Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1 defines Green Infrastructure as *'A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits to local communities.'* It goes on to state that Neighbourhood Plans provide *"opportunity for local communities to identify Local Green Space to be specifically designated."* Furthermore strategic policy C7 Open Space, Sport and Recreation reinforces the importance, need and provision of a variety of open spaces and associated uses or facilities.

The Local Green Spaces identified in the Neighbourhood Plan contribute to the network with the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Stafford, The Strategic Plan November 2009 identified the following key objectives that are applicable to Local Green Spaces:

Networks of open spaces, natural corridors, access routes and watercourses will be enhanced and created to:

- protect the setting of landscape, heritage and natural (biodiversity and geodiversity)
 - assets
 - reverse habitat fragmentation
 - provide recreational opportunities for new and existing communities
 - provide planned and designed open breaks between neighbouring residential areas and business developments.

Local landscape and heritage features should:

- be retained as focal points for new neighbourhoods,
- have their historic nature protected
- act as attractive green and open spaces where communities can come together.

To alleviate the effects of climate change:

- measures such as Sustainable Drainage Systems and street trees must be included in new developments and should be 'retro-fitted' into existing developments
- green spaces will provide a flood storage/management function (where appropriate).

The Local Green Spaces designated collectively provide a variety of social, economic and environmental benefits, contributing to the sustainable development of Stone, offering a range of spaces that promote well-being and community assets within the area. The designations have been made in accordance with the NPPF criteria contained within paragraph 77 and complement other designations within the area.

Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) for Stone Town Centre:

A Neighbourhood Development Order for Stone Town Centre would:

- Reinforce Stone Town Centre's role as a place to visit, shop, and access high quality local services, it is proposed to develop a Neighbourhood Development Order.
- The purpose of the Order will be to underpin the principles within Neighbourhood Plan policies, particularly Policy BE2.

What is a Neighbourhood Development Order?

A Neighbourhood Development Order can grant planning permission for specific types of development in a specific neighbourhood area. A Neighbourhood Development Order can therefore:

- Apply to a specific site, sites, or wider geographical area;
- Grant planning permission for a certain type or types of development; and
- Grant planning permission outright or subject to conditions.
- A Neighbourhood Development Order can be used to permit:
 - Building operations (e.g. structural alterations, construction, demolition or other works carried out by a builder);
 - Material changes of use of land and buildings; and
 - Engineering operations.

This Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared with special thanks to the Stone Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Jill Hood; Barbara Rochelle; Cathy Collier; Gary Barr; Geoff Collier; Grahame Neagus; Ian Fordham; Jane Bonser; Jill Piggott; Jim Davies; Mark Green; Mike Williamson; Rob Kenney; Tom Jackson.

Appendix A

LIST OF EVIDENCE AND SOURCES

- National Planning Policy Framework 2012
- Seven Principles of Good Design, Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
- Building For Life 12 – the sign of a good place to live, Building For Life Partnership 2012
- The Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2013 Part 1, adopted June 2014
- The emerging Plan for Stafford Borough Part 2
- Planning for Landscape Change SCC 2000
- Journal of the Staffordshire Industrial Archaeology Society Vol 4 1973
- The origins of Stone by M Allbutt and S R Broad bridge
- 2011 Census BUA data published by ONS on NOMIS, Staffordshire County Council IDBR Business Database, Produced by SQW
- 2011 Census ONS
- Planning Practice Guidance, (PPG), Local Green Space Designation document, 06/03/2014
- Stone Urban District Councils' meeting of the 18th December 1973
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2015 (SHLAA)
- Historic Environment Character Assessment, Stone Environs, Stafford Borough Council, July 2009

- Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play, Beyond the six acre standard, Fields in Trust, October 2015
- Stone Neighbourhood Plan Stage 1 consultation report, 2015
- Green Infrastructure Strategy for Stafford, The Strategic Plan November 2009

Appendix B Plan of North Character Area

Note to Graphic Designer: Reserve 1 A4 Page for a plan here this will be sent by 1st November 2016

Appendix C Plan of South Character Area

Note to Graphic Designer: Reserve 1 A4 Page for a plan here will be sent by 1st November 2016

Appendix D Local Green Space Audit

Insert PDF File ref: Stone Town NP Protected Spaces Appendix.PDF

This file includes 35 pages

Appendix E Local Green Space Designations

Note to Graphic Designer: Reserve approx. 20 A4 Pages for LGS designations. This number will be confirmed by Friday 11th November 2016 after consultation has ended and document is prepared by the steering group. Will be the same format as the LGS Audit in Appendix D.

Appendix F Plan of Local Green Space Designations

Note to Graphic Designer: Reserve possible 2 A3 Pages unable to confirm exact number. A plan(s) here will be sent after it is confirmed by Friday 11th November 2016 after consultation has ended and document is prepared by the steering group.

Appendix G Plan of Stone Settlement Boundary

Note to Graphic Designer: Reserve 1 A4 Page for a plan here will be sent by 1st November 2016

Introduction to Appendix

In March 2012, the Government made it possible for green spaces with a special community importance to qualify for a new protection status. This status is known as '**Local Green Space**'. The Local Green Space status has been made possible through the introduction of the Localism Act and Natural Environment White Paper (2011) which influenced the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced in March 2012.

Criteria for Designation

The Planning Practice Guidance paragraph 19 states that land does not have to be in public ownership to be designated Local Green Space. Neither does it need to have public access (paragraph 17). Reflecting NPPF paragraph 77, all sites must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated.
- 2) Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan.
- 3) Not an extensive tract of land.
- 4) Local in character.
- 5) In proximity to the area it serves.
- 6) Demonstrably special to the local community.

Additionally, all sites must meet at least one of the following criteria:

Hold particular local significance.... because of its beauty; its historical significance; its recreational value; its tranquillity; its wildlife; for any other reason.

For clarity the definition of tranquillity has been taken from the Oxford English Dictionary where it is listed as meaning 'calm, serene, unruffled, not agitated'. Tranquillity does not necessarily imply an absence of noise.

Comments have been shaped resulting from the Government's emphasis on well-being in their Sporting Futures Strategy, (Dec 2015), and Sir Professor John Lawton's Making Space for Nature Review, (Sept. 2010). The Fields in Trust benchmark guidelines, Beyond the Six Acre Standard, (Oct 2015), have been used to assist in the descriptions of spaces and defining their roles in meeting open space needs within the local community.

In relation to Community Facilities the National Planning Policy Framework, (paragraph 70), also states:

‘To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

1. plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
2. guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
3. ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and
4. ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.’


This document has sought to identify those green spaces and community facilities in Stone which it is believed should be offered protected status. Visits were made to each site to document evidence and the above relevant criteria for designation has been applied to support designation. In total 49 spaces were designated Local Green Spaces and 35 local facilities were designated Community Facilities.



Protected Ref.	Designation & Description	Name	Approx. location	
			Post Code	OS Grid Ref.
CF 1	Community facility - Education + Sports Facilities	Alleyes Academy	ST15 8DT	SJ 906 348
CF 2	Community facility -Sport facilities	Alleyes Sports Ctr	ST15 8WB	SJ 905 350
CF 3	Community facility - Education	Christchurch Academy	ST15 8DU	SJ 902 346
CF 4	Community facility - Education	Christchurch CE 1st Sch	ST15 8EP	SJ 899 342
CF 5	Community Facility - Church + Community Centre	Christchurch Church & Centre	ST15 8AB	SJ 901 341
CF 6	Community facility -Community Centre	Frank Jordan Centre	ST15 8NA	SJ 903 337
CF 7	Community facility -Sport Club	Little Stoke CC	ST15 8QX	SJ 919 327
CF 8	Community facility - Education	Manor Hill 1st Sch	ST15 0JA	SJ 894 332
CF 9	Community facility - Education	Pirehill 1st School	ST15 0AA	SJ 899 329
CF 10	Community Facility - shopping	Pirehill Shop' Precinct	ST15 0JN	SJ 898 325
CF 11	Community facility - Education	St Dominics RC Prim Sch	ST15 8EL	SJ 899 340
CF 12	Community facility - Education	St Dominics RC Priory Sch	ST15 8EW	SJ 899 341
CF 13	Community facility -Community Centre	St Dominics Hall	ST15 8JP	SJ 900 341
CF 14	Community Facility - Church	St Michaels & St Wulfrans + Grds.	ST15 8BD	SJ 904 338
CF 15	Community facility - Education	St Michael's C of E 1st Sch	ST15 8NU	SJ 910 330
CF 16	Community facility -Community Centre	St Michaels Hall	ST15 8NA	SJ 903 337
CF 17	Community Facility - Church	St. Dominics. Cath Church	ST15 8EN	SJ 899 341
CF 18	Community facility -Sport Club	Stafford & Stone Canoe Club	ST15 0GX	SJ 902 334
CF 19	Community facility - Cemetery	Stone Cemetery	ST15 0TE	SJ 909 322
CF 20	Community facility -Community Centre	Stone Fire station	ST15 0LS	SJ 899 334
CF 21	Community facility -Sport Club	Stone Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	ST15 8LD	SJ 896 342
CF 22	Community facility- Library	Stone Library	ST15 8AU	SJ 901 338
CF 23	Community facility -Sport Club	Stone SP CC	ST15 8NN	SJ 907 333
CF 24	Community facility -Community Centre	Stone Station	ST15 8LH	SJ 896 345
CF 25	Community facility -Community Centre	Stone Y_C	ST15 8PQ	SJ 897 344
CF 26	Community facility - Community Centre	Walton Com. Ctr.	ST15 0EQ	SJ 898 333
CF 27	Community Facility - Shopping	Walton Corner	ST15 0HJ	SJ 900 332
CF 28	Community facility - Education	Walton Middle Sch	ST15 0AL	SJ 899 326
CF 29	Community Facility - Shopping	Walton Shopping Precinct	ST15 0HN	SJ 899 330
CF 30	Community Facility - Destination & Festival Park CA3	Westbridge Park	ST15 8QW	SJ 903 335
CF 31	Community facility - Allotments	Chestnut Grv. Allot.	ST15 8GP	SJ 895 347
CF 32	Community facility - Allotments	Newcastle Rd. Allot.	ST15 8LD	SJ 897 339
CF 33	Community facility - Allotments	Old Road Allot.	ST15 8HX	SJ 902 349
CF 34	Community facility - Allotments	Priory Rd Allot	ST15 8NS	SJ 908 332
CF 35	Community facility - Allotments	Tilling Drv. Allot	ST15 0SJ	SJ 902 328


Protected Ref.	Neighbourhood Plan	Approx. location		Description	Community Facilities							NPPF Para 77 Criteria	
		Post Code	OS Grid Ref.		Not extant	Not allocated for development	Not an extensive tract of land	Is local in character	Is in close proximity to serving area	Is demonstrably special to local community	Particular significance because of any one of below:		
											Beauty (B)	Historical significance (H)	Recreation value (R)
LGS 1	Bushberry	ST15 0HP	SJ 897 329	Amenity greenspace + Trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B) (H) (O)	Is part of a wildlife corridor -buffer zone-contributes to "well being"	
LGS 2	Cauldon Way	ST15 0WA	SJ 893 343	Local equipped area for play + Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(W)(O)	contributes to "well being"	
LGS 3	Common Ln.	ST15 0LN	SJ 895 327	Amenity greenspace, pond and tree	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(R)(T)(W) (O))	contributes to "well being"	
LGS 4	Common Plot	Removed											
LGS 5	Coombe Pk. Rd.	ST15 0AY	SJ 897 321	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(T) (W) (O)	Wildlife corridor - Well-being	
LGS 6	Copeland Dr	ST15 8YR	SJ 916 323	Local equipped area for play + Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(T) (R)(W) (O)	Informal play area, wildlife corridor - Well-being and footpath links	
LGS 7	Crestwood Drv.	ST15 0LW	SJ 896 324	Amenity greenspace + Pond + Copse	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B) (R) (W) (O)	Informal play area	
LGS 8	Crown Meadow	ST15 0HG	SJ 901 335	GI & LNR, natural and semi-natural greenspaces in a river and canal corridor.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(H)(R)(T)(W) (O)	Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Local hay meadow. Outdoor amphitheatre	
LGS 9	Downing/Canon Grd.	ST15 0AH	SJ 901 330	Amenity greenspace + Trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(W) (T) (O)	Adds to well-being,	
LGS 10	East & West Close	ST15 0EF	SJ 896 333	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(H) (O) (R)	Adds space and well-being to area	
LGS 11	Ernald Grd.	ST15 0AE	SJ 900 331	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(T) (W) (O)	Adds space and well-being to area	
LGS 12	Goodall Meadow	ST15 8LE	SJ 893 341	GI & LNR, Natural and semi-natural greenspaces in a river and canal corridor.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(H)(R)(T)(W)	Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (GI)	
LGS 13	Green Close	ST15 0JG	SJ 898 331	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(H) (O) (R)	Adds space and well-being to area	
LGS 14	Heathfield Ave.	ST15 0HD	SJ 903 330	Local equipped area for play	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R) (T) (W)		
LGS 15	Hill Cres.	ST15 0AT	SJ 900 325	Local equipped area for play	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(T)		
LGS 16	Jordan Way	ST15 8PD	SJ 909 334	Amenity greenspace + Trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B) (T) (W) (R) (O)	Part of an important connecting corridor	
LGS 17	Lyndhurst Gr	ST15 8TP	SJ 916 329	Amenity greenspace + Copse + Aston chase brook	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(T) (R) (W) (O)	Connecting traffic free footpath	
LGS 18	Manor Rise	ST15 0HT	SJ 896 330	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(H) (O) (R)	adds space and well-being to area	
LGS 19	Meadow Way	ST15 0JY	SJ 897 326	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(O) (R)	Social gathering place a. Adds space & well-being to bungalow community	
LGS 20	Mill Race (lower Moddeshall Valley)	ST15 8BJ	SJ 904 342	2 ha. Scotch Brook & historic wooded valley + natural & semi natural grassland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(H)(R)(T) (W)(O)	Part of conservation area linking Stone to the Moddershall Valley.	
LGS 21	Millennium Way	ST15 8ZQ	SJ 893 347	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(W)(T)(B) (O) (R)	Wildflower site for Stone in bloom. Buffer zone for Ind. Est/Hse/A34	
LGS 22	Nav. Loop Play area	ST15 8ZH	SJ 891 350	Local equipped area for play + Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(T)(B) (O)	provides open space in the middle of the residential amenity	
LGS 23	Navigation Loop	ST15 8YZ	SJ 893 350	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R) (W) (O)	Casual play area and wildlife corridor between residential amenity and railway	
LGS 24	Newcastle Rd. Allot	Removed											

Protected Ref.	Neighbourhood Plan	Approx. location		Community facilities	NPPF Para 77 Criteria							Particular significance because of any one of below:			
		Address/location	Post Code		OS Grid Ref.	Description	Not extant	Not allocated for development	Not an extensive tract of land	Is local in character	Is in close proximity to serving area		Is demonstrably special to local community	Beauty (B) Historical significance (H) Recreation value (R) Tranquillity (T) Wildlife (W) Other (O)*	(O)* Other reason explained
LGS 25	Nicholl's Lane	ST15 8UA	SJ 910 350	Part of Moddershall conservation area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B) (H)(R)(T)(W)(O)	Is an important buffer zone protecting conservation area			
LGS 26	Pembroke Dr	ST15 8TU	SJ 915 332	Local Equipped Areas for Play + Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(T)(W)				
LGS 27	Priory Rd. 1	ST15 8NH	SJ 906 334	Local equipped area for play + Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)				
LGS 28	Priory Rd. 2	ST15 8NS	SJ 908 332	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(O) (W)	large informal play area adding space in built up area			
LGS 29	Heath Grd	ST15 8BH	SJ 906 339	Local equipped area for play	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R) (T) (O)	Safe pedestrian access for children			
LGS 30	Redhill Grd	ST15 8BH	SJ 906 339	Local equipped area for play	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R) (O)	Unique due to isolated location			
LGS 31	Redwood Ave. 1	ST15 0DB	SJ 908 325	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(T)(W)(O)	Wildlife buffer adjacent to meadow			
LGS 32	Redwood Ave. 2	ST15 0DB	SJ 906 325	Amenity greenspace + Trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(H)(T)(W)	Adds to wellbeing- amazing redwoods			
LGS 33	Rendel Grv.	ST15 8ZN	SJ 891 349	Amenity greenspace + landscaped shrubs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(T)(W)(R)	Connecting corridor to canal and adds to well being			
LGS 34	Saddler Ave.	ST15 8XP	SJ 917 330	Amenity greenspace + Footpaths <i>(Decision Notice waiting on planning application)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R) (T) (W) (O)	Important space in a dense estate & Wildlife corridor			
LGS 35	Saxifrage Dr	ST15 8XY	SJ 912 325	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R) (B) (T)(W) (O)	buffer zone between estate and canal. Add to well-being			
LGS 36	Southern Meadow	ST15 0BD	SJ 908 324	GI & LNR, Natural and semi-natural greenspaces in a river and canal corridor with black poplar trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(H)(R)(T)(W)(O)	Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Special habitat for Black Poplar			
LGS 37	Spode Cl	ST15 0XR	SJ 894 324	Local equipped area for play + Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(W)(T)				
LGS 38	Stonefield Pk.	ST15 8HQ	SJ 900 343	GI, Neighbourhood Park - Courts, Greens, Gardens & Aviary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(H)(R)(T)(W)(O)	Pocket Park and garden attended to by stone in bloom			
LGS 39	The Lindens	ST15 0BD	SJ 908 325	Local equipped area for play + Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(T)(W)(B) (O)	Buffer zone to LNR rare species			
LGS 40	Tilling Drv 1	ST15 0AH	SJ 901 328	GI, Local equipped area for play + Pitch + Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(O)	An important space between two large developments- well being			
LGS 41	Trent Rd.	ST15 0WB	SJ 894 342	Natural and Semi Natural greenspace + Pond + Copse (protected)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(T)(W)	Buffer zone between developments and protected trees			
LGS 42	Tyler Grv	ST15 0JA	SJ 894 333	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(H) (R) (O)	Adds space, well-being to area and buffer between estate and A34			
LGS 43	Sycamore Rd.	ST15 8NJ	SJ 905 335	Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(W)(T)(B) (O)	wildlife buffer zone and corridor			
LGS 44	Walton Heath	ST15 0XR	SJ 893 324	Amenity greenspace + Pitch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(T)(W)(O)	An important recreational space SDL expansion area			
LGS 45	Westbridge Park	ST15 8QW	SJ 903 335	Destination & Festival Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(B)(H)(R)(T)(W)(O)	The town's festival park			

Protected Ref.	Neighbourhood Plan Address/location	Approx. location		Description	Community Facilities							NPPF Para 77 Criteria	
		Post Code	OS Grid Ref.		Not extant	Not allocated for development	Not an extensive tract of land	Is local in character	Is in close proximity to serving area	Is demonstrably special to local community	Particular significance because of any one of below:		
											Beauty (B) Historical significance (H) Recreation value (R) Tranquillity (T) Wildlife (W) Other (O)*	(O)* Other reason explained	
LGS 46	Whitemill	ST15 0EG	SJ 896 331	GI, Local equipped area for play + Pitch + Amenity greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(W)(T)(H)(O)	An important large space (park)	
LGS 47	Chandlers Way	ST15 8LD	SJ896340	Amenity Green Space	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(T) (W) (O)	Wildlife buffer zone between residential amenity and floodplain	
LGS 48	Diamond Way	Removed											
LGS 49	Little Stoke CC	ST15 8RZ	SJ 919 328	Amenity Green Space & Community Facilities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R) (W) (T) (O)	Cricket and local bowling Club centre. Club house has social function	
LGS 50	Stone Cemetery	ST15 0BQ	SJ909 323	Amenity Green Space and cemetery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(T)(B)(H)(W)(O)	Wildlife buffer Zones to LNR (Southern Meadow)	
LGS 51	Stone SP CC	ST15 8JW	SJ 908 333	Amenity Green Space & Community Facilities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R) (W) (T)(O)	Promotes physical wellbeing and social cohesion of the local community.	
LGS 52	Stone Y&C Centre	ST15 8ER	SJ 897 343	Local Community Centre with Playing Field (Amenity Green Space) and indoors area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(W) (T)(O)	Local community centre with a new developing community focus.	
LGS 53	Chestnut Grv. Allot	ST15 8GP	SJ 895 347	Amenity Green Space & Community Facilities (Allotment)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(T)(W)	Local allotment	
LGS 54	Old Road Allot	ST15 8HX	SJ 902 349	Amenity Green Space & Community Facilities (Allotment)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(T)(W)	Local allotment	
LGS 55	Priory Rd Allot	ST15 8NS	SJ 908 332	Amenity Green Space & Community Facilities (Allotment)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(T)(W)	New Local allotment	
LGS 56	Tilling Drive Allot	ST15 0SJ	SJ 902 328	Amenity Green Space & Community Facilities (Allotment)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(T)(W)(O)	Award winning local allotment (CIC registered) & Well-being centre	
LGS 57	Newcastle Rd Allot	ST15 8LD	SJ 897 339	Amenity Green Space & Community Facilities (Allotment)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(R)(T)(W)(H) (O)	Part of Historic Market Garden in HUCA 6	

Protected Reference		LGS 01
Name		Bushbury
Location	Post Code	ST15 0HP
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 897 329
Type of protection		Local Green Space
NPPF Para 77 Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds local significance because of its: beauty and historical significance. <p>Other reasons: it provides a part of a buffer zone to a busy road and whilst separated from the roadside verge of Bankside by Common Lane, together they provide a sense of open space, contributing to the well-being of local residents</p>		
 <p>Site Description:</p> <p>Bushberry is a small area of amenity greenspace containing four trees, which provides a pleasant entry into Common Lane and the high-density housing area of Walton. Historical OS maps dated 1887 identify it as a remnant of what would have been open fields up to Walton Heath, and it is to this that the community attributes value. Adjacent is Bank Side, a roadside verge and whilst not part of the designation, it is tree lined amenity greenspace, a continuation of Bushberry. Together they provide a corridor for wildlife and a pleasurable space for residents to walk along. It typifies the spacious feel of the gateway approaches into Stone, and is widely valued by the community.</p>		

Protected Reference		LGS 02
Name		Cauldon Way
Location	Post Code	ST15 0WA
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 897 343
Type of protection		Local Green Space
NPPF Para 77 Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: Recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reasons: It also provides an area for local residents with children to meet, and therefore contributes to the well-being of this small community.</p>		
<p>Site Description:</p>  <p>This is a Local Equipped Area for Play and Amenity Greenspace, enclosed within a gated and hedged area in the centre of the residential development. It contains swings and a small slide for young children along with supervisory seating.</p>  		

Protected Reference		LGS 03	Site Description:  This is a very attractive amenity greenspace containing a pond at the lower end, mature trees and a path which leads through to a smaller green space in Birchwood Close. It could be enhanced by adding seating so it could be used as a place to take time to contemplate and enjoy the immediate pleasant surroundings. The pond itself will be important for wildlife and provides an open aspect to the area.
Name		Common Lane	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0LN	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 895 327	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: beauty, tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. Other reason: the area contributes to a sense of well-being amongst the local residents. 			

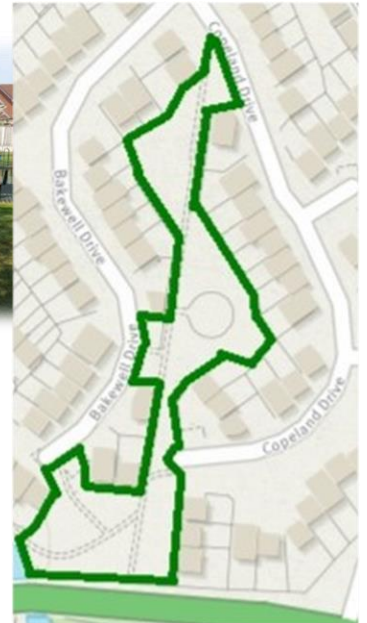


Note LGS 04 has been removed

Protected Reference		LGS 05	Site Description:  This is a small amenity greenspace containing a tree and stream that is situated on the southerly edge of the Walton housing estate. It backs onto farmland and caters for an area of high density housing with a significant number of bungalows in the vicinity. As it is some distance from the natural green space at the top of Common Lane, it has an important role to play in providing accessible open green space for those who are more elderly and infirm and cannot walk far. The provision of seating would enhance the enjoyment of the area which has pleasant views over to open farmland.
Name		Coombe Park Rd	
Location	ST15 0AY	ST15 0HP	
	SJ 897 329	SJ 897 329	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: tranquillity and wildlife. Other reasons: the space is a wildlife corridor between the edge of the estate and open fields and contributes to a sense of well-being for local residents. 			



Protected Reference		LGS 06	<p>Site Description: It is a Local Equipped Area for Play and Amenity Greenspace with trees offering informal areas for play, social interaction and gentle exercise. This is an elongated tract of land which links Copeland Drive to the Trent and Mersey Canal Area on an estate built in the 1990's. It contains a Local Equipped Area for Play for the under 12's containing activity trail, swings, cradle, slide and flat. The public footpath, which runs north east to south west passes through the Amenity greenspace.</p>
Name		Copeland Dr.	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8YR	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 916 323	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. Other reasons: the space provides a wildlife corridor from the estate to the canal tow path and links the estate to other footpaths. 			



Protected Reference		LGS 07	<p>Site Description: It is an amenity green space encompassing a small copse and pond which supports a variety of wildlife. The trees isolate the pond from the road thus providing a quiet and pleasant area for informal recreation.</p>
Name		Crestwood Drv.	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0LW	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 896 324	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: beauty, recreational value and wildlife. Other reason: the area is used by local children as an informal play area. 			



Protected Reference		LGS 08
Name		Crown Meadow
Location	Post Code	ST15 0HG
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 901 335
Type of protection		Local Green Space
NPPF Para 77 Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: beauty, tranquillity, historical significance, recreational value and wildlife. Other reasons: the meadow is regularly used by locals and visitors and it forms part of a wildlife corridor along the Trent floodplain linking all three Local Nature Reserves. 		



Site Description:

It is a Local Nature Reserve within the Green Infrastructure along the Trent floodplain and is a natural and semi-natural greenspace situated in the river/canal corridor between the River Trent, the Trent and Mersey Canal and the Scotch Brook. The Town Council owns and manages the reserve. In recent years this area has been greatly improved with the addition of a disabled friendly access bridge, new footpaths including a small circular walk, a small amphitheatre and two wetland scrapes heavily planted with indigenous wild flowers. It is managed as a hay meadow and being close to the heart of Stone it is a well-known and well-used site. It offers beautiful scenery tranquillity and engenders a sense of well-being amongst locals and visitors.



Protected Reference		LGS 09
Name		Downing Canon Grd.
Location	Post Code	ST15 0AH
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 901 333
Type of protection		Local Green Space
NPPF Para 77 Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: beauty, tranquillity and wildlife. Other reasons: the space provides an open aspect to the bungalows offering a peaceful setting which contributes to the well-being of the residents. 		

Site Description:



These are two amenity greenspaces with mature trees separated by Friars Ave. The areas are large grass verges with six trees, a short distance from Ernald Gardens, where similar points apply. It offers a sense of space as well as contributing to a feeling of well-being for the elderly local residents living in the vicinity.

Protected Reference		LGS 10	<p>Site Description:</p> <p>Is an amenity greenspace. These two Closes of around 550m² each are mirror images and are bounded on three sides by housing. The</p>  
Name		East & West Close	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0EF	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 896 333	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds local significance because of its: historical significance and recreational value. Other reasons are the spaces are used for casual recreation & leisure adding to the well-being of local residents. 			<p>roads around the closes are very narrow and were built in the early 1940's when there were few cars. Residents today often use these areas of green space for parking in the absence of an alternative, albeit this is not permitted. They are also used for informal recreation, whilst the openness adds a sense of space to the estate, which helps to engender a feeling of well-being amongst its residents.</p>

Protected Reference		LGS 11	<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This is a small amenity greenspace with a tree bounded by small bungalows on two sides. The immediate vicinity also consists in the main of other small bungalows which will cater for an older age group with potentially limited mobility. Having easy</p>  
Name		Ernald Grd.	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0AE	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 900 331	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: Tranquillity and wildlife. Other reasons are: the green space creates a sense of openness between the two rows of bungalows which provides interest for local residents and contributes to their quality of life. 			<p>access to such small open green space should be a priority to maintain an appropriate quality of life and this further emphasises the importance of such areas. Improvements could be made by the provision of seating.</p>

Protected Reference		LGS 12	<p>Site Description: It is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) within the Green Infrastructure and contains natural and semi-natural greenspaces in the river/canal corridor. Formerly referred to as the Northern Meadow, this approx. 40 ha site is part of the Trent floodplain. It is low lying, with the remnants of archaeologically important flood meadow field systems still visible today. The meadow has been agriculturally improved in the past, but work is now underway to create new sections of flower rich meadows.</p>
Name		Goodall Meadow	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0HP	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 897 329	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: beauty, tranquillity, historical significance, recreational value and wildlife. 			



Protected Reference		LGS 13	<p>Site Description: It is an amenity greenspace. As with other closes on the estate the roads surrounding the greenspace are very narrow and were built in an era when there were few cars.</p>
Name		Green Close	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0JG	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 898 331	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: historical significance and recreational value. Other reasons: the space creates an open aspect which engenders a sense of well-being for residents. 			



Although not permitted, residents today do sometimes use these areas of green space for parking, reflecting society's changing needs. They do however also provide space for informal recreation, as well as creating a sense of space in what is a densely populated area.

Protected Reference		LGS 14
Name		Heathfield Ave.
Location	Post Code	ST15 0HD
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 903 330
Type of protection		Local Green Space
NPPF Para 77 Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. 		

Site Description:
 Is a Local Equipped Area for Play with 4 swings, cradle and flat with a seated area for supervision, in a small, hedge enclosed, amenity greenspace situated on a 1970's housing estate.



Protected Reference		LGS 15
Name		Hill Cres.
Location	Post Code	ST15 0AT
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 900 325
Type of protection		Local Green Space
NPPF Para 77 Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: Tranquillity and recreational value. 		

Site Description:
 It is a Local Equipped Area for Play with 4 swings, cradle and flat with a seated area for supervision, in a small amenity greenspace situated on a 1970's housing estate.





Protected Reference		LGS 16	Site Description:  It is an Amenity greenspace containing a stream which encompasses land along the whole length of one side of the small housing development on Jordan Way extending up to the railway line. On the side adjacent to Pingle Lane it also includes a row of mature trees. Pingle Lane itself is an unmade track and public footpath to Stone Park Farm. This area is highly valued by the local community providing both an informal play area for children and an area for exercising dogs. It also serves as an important corridor for people and wildlife and due to the amount of tree cover is alive with birdsong.
Name		Jordan Way	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8PD	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 909 334	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: beauty, tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. Other reason: the space is a much valued and important connecting corridor from the housing estate to Lichfield Rd. 			

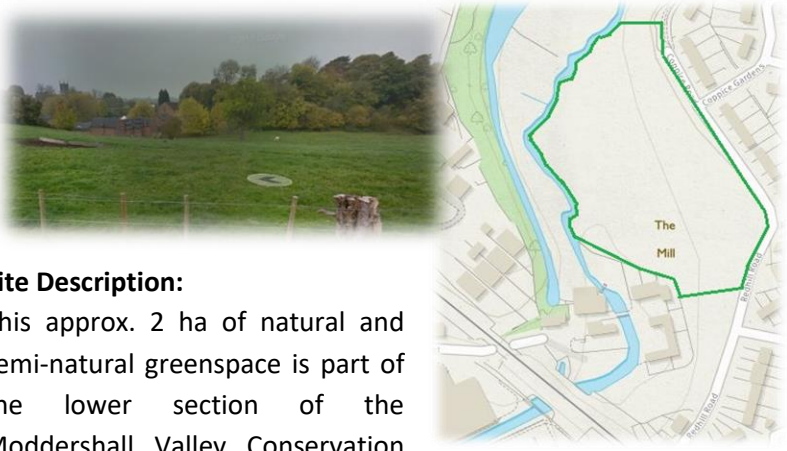


Protected Reference		LGS 17	Site Description: This is an amenity greenspace on the Aston Lodge housing estate which runs from Mercer Avenue down to the West Coast Rail Line where it ends.  It contains the partly culverted Aston Lodge Brook which flows through an area of landscaped trees and shrubs. There is also a path which facilitates a pleasant, tranquil walk from Mercer Ave to Lyndhurst Grove, often used by dog walkers.
Name		Lyndhurst Grv	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8TP	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 916 329	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: beauty, tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. Other reason: the space creates a traffic free area for use by local residents for recreational purposes. 			







Protected Reference		LGS 18	Site Description: This is a small Amenity greenspace with housing on 3 sides. The roads around the close are very narrow and were built in an era when there were few cars.	
Name		Manor Rise		
Location	Post Code	ST15 0HT		
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 896 330		
Type of protection		Local Green Space		
NPPF Para 77 Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its: historical significance and recreational activity. Other reason: it introduces a sense of space to the estate, improving the immediate environment for residents. 				Although not permitted, some residents today use this area of green space for parking reflecting the changing needs of society. The green space can also be used for informal recreation.



Protected Reference		LGS 19	Site Description: This is a small amenity greenspace surrounded by bungalows that forms the top of the loop of Meadow Way.	
Name		Meadow Way		
Location	Post Code	ST15 0JY		
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 897 326		
Type of protection		Local Green Space		
NPPF Para 77 Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its recreational value. Other reason: It is used as a space for social interaction which can enhance the feeling of well- being amongst residents. 				It is analogous to a mini village green and provides a safe sense of space for those residents, who by the nature of the properties, are likely to be elderly. It could be enhanced by the placing of seating and flowers to encourage further social interaction amongst the community.


Protected Reference		LGS 20	
Name		Mill Race (Lower Moddershall Valley)	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8BJ	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 905 341	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria		<p>This approx. 2 ha of natural and semi-natural greenspace is part of the lower section of the Moddershall Valley Conservation Area (MVCA). The location is adjacent to veteran woodlands (Radford Woods), the historic Mill Race and the Scotch Brook, where in this section the river is probably one of the finest examples of natural unmodified river remaining in the county; (source Staffs Ecological Record Sept 02). The Mill, (Grade II listed), is the birth place of baker Richard 'Stoney' Smith, the founder of Hovis. The area is also adjacent to one of the recently restored flint mills in the valley. The area also enjoys historic vistas of Stone from Coppice Rd. As well as it being part of a natural corridor for wildlife it also offers recreational space for local children which is notably limited in the area. It is considered an area of natural beauty as well as evidencing an important part of Stone’s industrial heritage.</p>	

Continue on Next page

Protected Reference		LGS 21	<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This area of about 1 ha encompasses 5 distinct and different sized parcels of landscaped amenity greenspace, planted with trees and shrubs which are bisected by the feeder road from the A34 to the Whitebridge housing development and industrial estate. These parcels of land also back onto the canal and incorporate land to the east of Millennium Way.</p>
Name		Millennium Way	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8ZQ	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 893 347	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its beauty, recreational value, tranquillity and wildlife. <p>Other reasons: Part of the space is a wildflower site for Stone in Bloom. As a whole the area acts as a buffer zone between the industrial estate, the housing development and the main A34. It also enhances the main northern gateway approach to the town.</p>			
			
			
			
<p>Together they constitute a significant piece of open space for informal recreational use by the community, as well as providing a habitat for wildlife, a paved link to walks by the canal and the countryside beyond, and enhancement of the entrance to the large Whitebridge housing development. All these factors help promote a sense of well-being for the local community in the area. The section immediately next to the A34, which is planted with wild flowers, also creates a sense of space which is replicated, in the main, on other gateway approaches into Stone and is seen as an important feature to the town.</p>			
			

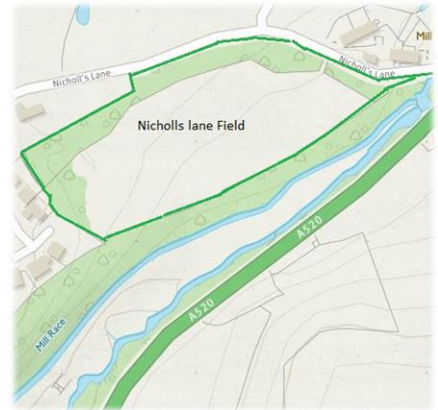
Continue next page

Protected Reference		LGS 22	Site Description: Set in an acre of land, this local equipped area for play and amenity greenspace offers the local community a place to enjoy leisure activities. Importantly it provides a link between the west and east sides of the loop road that circumnavigates the development.
Name		Nav. Loop Play area	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8ZH	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 891 350	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its beauty, tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reason: it links the west and east side of the development providing easy access for residents.</p>			
		 	

Protected Reference		LGS 23	Site Description: This well-kept amenity greenspace affords a buffer to the houses from the nearby railway cutting. It offers space for children to play informally within sight of their homes and its trees and shrubs provide a wild life corridor along the side of the railway.
Name		Navigation Loop	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8YZ	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 893 350	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reason: the space provides a wildlife corridor between the residential amenity and railway.</p>			
		 	

LGS 24 Removed

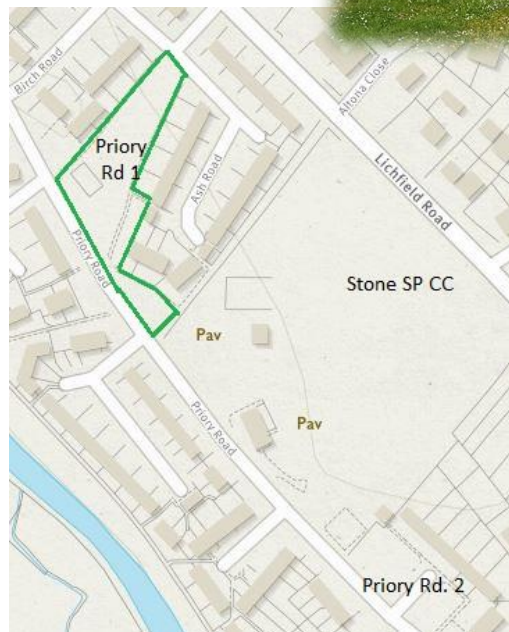
Protected Reference		LGS 25	<p>Site Description:</p> <p>It is a Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace identified for its beauty and dramatic scenery. It is situated on the valley side and falls within the Moddershall Valley Conservation Area. It has a public footpath, (Stone Town 13), which crosses the field south west to north east that is used daily, and particularly so by dog walkers, who may let their animals off the lead because there has been no grazing stock for many years. Other well-worn paths cross and circumnavigate the field. It is also used for other forms of informal recreation, such as picnicking and sledging both in recent times and historically. The site abuts woodland which is both an SBI for flora, and a County Wildlife site. It is part of the green corridor formed by the valley that extends outwards from the town to the Green Belt in the north and east. It is very highly valued by the local community who enjoy its beauty, tranquillity, historical significance, recreational value and wildlife.</p>
Name		Nicholl's Lane	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8AU	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 910 350	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. Planning history: - Appeal; decision ref: APP/Y3425/A/13/2203362; dismissed. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, beauty, historic significance, recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reason: It is also said by those who use the space it engenders a sense of 'well-being' and 'closeness to nature'.</p>			






Protected Reference		LGS 26	Site Description: It contains two Local Equipped Areas for Play and Amenity Greenspace situated between two residential streets in the centre of the Aston Lodge housing estate. One play area is for the under 12's containing a springer, stepping pods, swings and cradle. As second area for older children has an activity trail, basketball net and a Youth Shelter for children to sit and chat. The amenity greenspace contains trees, shrubs and a small stream which attracts wildlife and is popular with those wishing to take a gentle stroll or exercise their dogs. A tree lined pathway also links through to Saddler Ave.
Name		Pembroke Dr.	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8TU	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 915 332	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. 			







Protected Reference		LGS 27	Site Description: This is a local equipped area for play area for the under 10's, surrounded by an area of amenity greenspace, providing a safe area for both formal and informal play.
Name		Priory Road 1	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8NH	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 906 334	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its recreational value. 			



Protected Reference		LGS 28	Site Description: It is an informal play and Semi Natural Amenity Greenspace which affords a sense of space to this residential area.
Name		Priory Road 2	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8NS	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 908 332	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			 <p>If these areas were enhanced with bench seating and flowers, they could provide space to “while away a few minutes” and indeed afford the elderly of the estate a place for social interaction.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reason: it improves the environment within this built up area and potentially enhances the well- being of residents.</p>			
			

Protected Reference		LGS 29	Site Description: Virtually opposite Redfern Rd is an amenity greenspace containing a tree lined path planted with daffodils. It provides a pleasant route from the upper parts of the housing developments at Walton, to those at a lower level, such as Spring Gardens and the Beacon Rise area. It is a walkway which also offers the opportunity for children and parents to walk to the Walton Middle School and Pirehill 1st School along an enjoyable, traffic free route. Its value and importance to the local community therefore lies in it being both a pleasurable and tranquil communication link between different parts of Walton, and a corridor for wildlife.
Name		Heath Gardens	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0AS	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 899 324	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reason: the area offers a safe connecting route for children to walk to school. It also engenders a sense of well-being to those who use it.</p>			
			

Protected Reference		LGS 30	Site Description: It is a local equipped area for play for the under 10's, squeezed between two houses on a development built between the wars. It has a small semi natural green space at the rear. It is the only green space available in the area for young children to play safely and hence is highly valued by the local community.
Name		Redhill Grd	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8BH	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 906 339	
Type of protection			
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its recreational value. <p>Other reason: the loss of such space would require children having to walk considerable distance to access similar facilities.</p>			
			 

Protected Reference		LGS 31	Site Description: This small amenity greenspace is accessed via a path between two properties on Redwood Drive. It backs onto woodland which forms part of the Southern Meadow Local Nature Reserve, (LNR) contained within the Trent floodplain (GI), which adds to the sense of being connected to nature. It also contains an access point to Southern Meadow. Although spatially not far from the Lindens, the two areas are not joined together. This area is large enough to allow ball games, and is used by the local community for various activities, such as dog walking and picnicking
Name		Redwood Ave. 1	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0DB	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 908 325	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reason: the space engenders a sense of well-being to those who use it and it acts as a buffer zone to the LNR containing rare Black Poplar trees.</p>			
			 

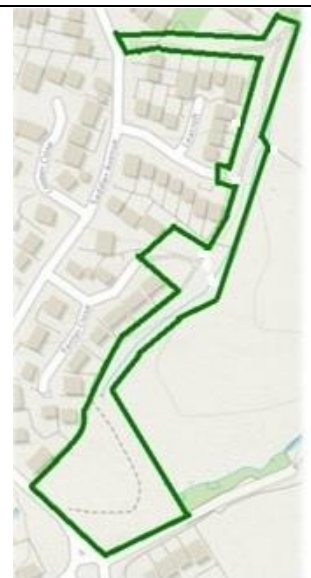
Protected Reference		LGS 32	Site Description: These two conjoined areas of green space are the remains of what is left of the grounds of a house called the Cedars evidenced on the 1887 OS 6" map. The area has a footpath passing through it from a pelican crossing off the A34 to the housing estates that constitutes Cherryfields to the south and the Valley Road area to the north and east. There is a small plantation which contains amongst other trees, veteran cedar trees after which the property was probably named. Similarly, there are purposefully placed copper beech trees potentially of a similar age. The greenspace that specifically borders the A34 has a tilled area used by "Stone in Bloom" for the annual planting of wild flowers, creating an expanse of colour in the summer.
Name		Redwood Ave. 2	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0DB	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 906 325	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, beauty, historic significance and wildlife. <p>Other reason: the space engenders a sense of well-being for the local community.</p>			



Protected Reference		LGS 33	Site Description: This is a moderately sized amenity greenspace of landscaped grass and shrubs on the western edge of the Whitebridge housing development. It includes an interesting 'v' section along the canal side known as a "winding hole". This large residential development has limited green space within its boundary and this area provides an attractive wide corridor leading from the estate to the canal tow-path.
Name		Rendel Grv.	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8ZN	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 891 349	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, recreational value, beauty, and wildlife. <p>Other reason: the space creates a sense of well-being for the local community with its links to the Trent Mersey Canal.</p>			



Protected Reference		LGS 34
Name		Saddler Ave.
Location	Post Code	ST15 8XP
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 917 330
Type of protection		Local Green Space
NPPF Para 77 Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. Planning history: -16/34057/OUT 10 houses; refused 27 Jul 2016, 17/25759/OUT 20 Awaiting Decision Notice Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. (Outside Settlement Boundary) Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reason: it is an important natural greenspace in a densely built development. It acts as a wildlife corridor and buffer zone.</p>		



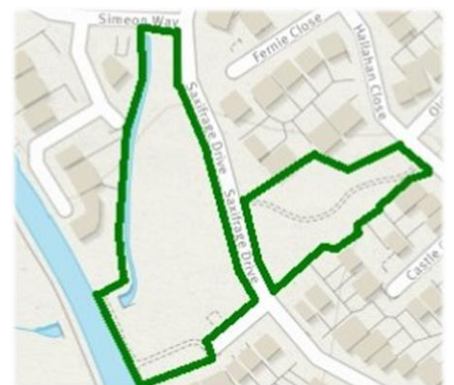
Site Description:

This natural and semi-natural greenspace is situated between a partly wooded footpath on one side and the public footpath along Blackies Lane on the other. The 1 ha of land contains 2 culverted streams and is a haven for wildlife. When exiting and entering this densely populated housing development, the views from this piece of land eastwards towards rising agricultural land provide a stark contrast and hence are valued by the local community. The area is the only readily accessible natural green space for the community on Aston Lodge and is used both for recreational purposes and by dog owners walking in a loop around the development.

Protected Reference		LGS 35
Name		Saxifrage Dr.
Location	Post Code	ST15 8XY
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 912 325
Type of protection		Local Green Space
NPPF Para 77 Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, beauty, recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reason: the space acts as a buffer zone between the housing estate and canal, and as an attractive area, contributes to a sense of well-being for the local community.</p>		

Site Description:

An area of amenity greenspace split into two parts by Saxifrage Drive. This development was built on land belonging to Brassworks Farm which was Grade II listed (1986) and is now surrounded by housing. This is the only green space on the development providing a link corridor for residents and wildlife to the Trent and Mersey canal. It contains a footpath and Aston Chase Brook skirts the western periphery. It is a well maintained and popular area for informal play and hence is of considerable importance to the local community.



Protected Reference		LGS 36	Site Description: The meadow is a Local Nature Reserve, (LNR), consisting of about 5ha of low-lying ground on the River Trent flood plain, situated close to the cemetery and the A34/A51 road junction. The southern and western edges provide significant botanical interest with dominant varieties such as Willow and Alder found alongside the rare Black Poplar. The area is walked by the local community and is renowned for its beauty, tranquillity, and richness in wildlife. There are two public access points, one off Valley Rd and the other via an area of grassed amenity public open space just off Redwood Avenue.
Name		Southern Meadow	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0BD	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 908 324	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, beauty, historic significance, recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reason: the space is a LNR and contains rare tree species (Black Poplar).</p>			



Protected Reference		LGS 37	Site Description: This local equipped area for play and amenity greenspace is a play area for children under 12 sited within a development that was built 12 years ago. It backs onto open fields (Walton Heath), and is linked by a path to the adjacent natural and semi-natural greenspace at the top of Common Lane.
Name		Spode Close	
Location	Post Code	ST15	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. 			



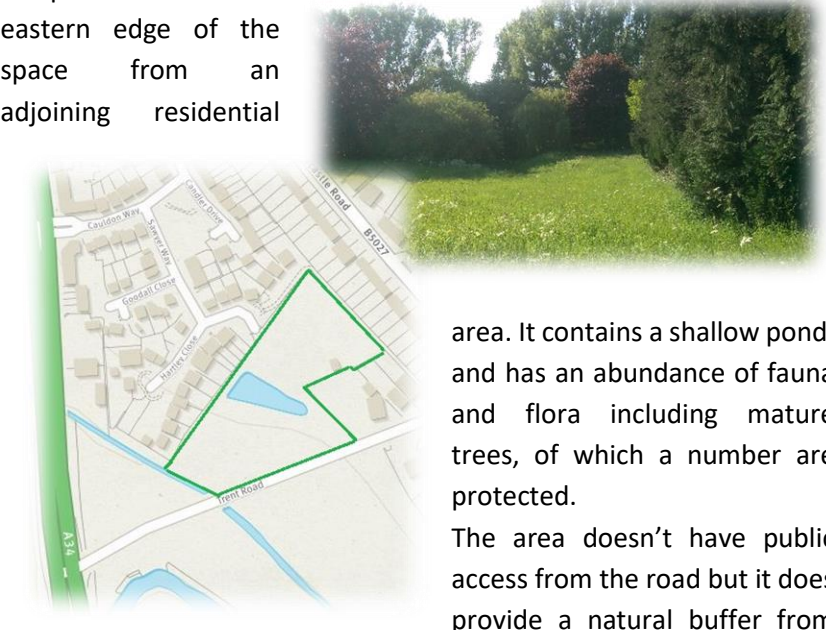
Protected Reference		LGS 38	Site Description:
Name		Stonefield Pk.	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8HQ	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 900 343	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			<p>This is a park & garden i.e. a pocket park owned by Stafford Borough. It was awarded the prestigious Heart of England Green Flag award (2016). It is situated in a traditional residential neighbourhood surrounded by terraced housing. Opened in 1928 it is very traditional in what it offers the local community, with crown green bowling, two tennis courts, a local equipped play area for small children (containing a roundabout, slide, swings, cradle and flat), a small aviary and seating areas amongst beautiful formal flower beds. It is contained within a hedged boundary and is locked at dusk. It is much loved by the local community, demonstrated by the high feelings which surface when change is discussed.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, beauty, historic significance, recreational value and wildlife. Other reason: the park generates a feeling of well-being amongst all age groups. 			






Protected Reference		LGS 39	Site Description:
Name		The Lindens	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0BD	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 908 325	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			<p>The space contains a local equipped area for play and amenity greenspace for small children with several play activity structures along with seating for use by those who are supervising.</p> <p>In addition, the area acts as a buffer zone being positioned between housing and Southern Meadow (Local Nature Reserve) which contains rare Black Popular trees.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, beauty, recreational value and wildlife. Other reason: the space acts as a buffer zone to a local LNR and generates feelings of well-being for the local community. 			




Protected Reference		LGS 40	Site Description: 
Name		Tilling Drive 1	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0AH	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 901 328	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			<p>Almost 1 ha in size, it is a protected space with a sports field, (football pitch,) and a Local Equipped Area for Play in one corner for use by young children.</p> <p>This area is important as not only does it serve the whole community of Walton, but due to pedestrian bridge access over the A34, it can readily be used by the those who reside on the east side of the A34 where there are no similar sizeable facilities. There is potential for improving the use of this open green space for the overall benefit of a large section of the community that sits west of the River Trent.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reason: the space is a protected playing field and a much-valued community amenity. It is the most readily accessible, large recreational space available to the community in the area.</p>			

Protected Reference		LGS 41	Site Description: 
Name		Trent Rd.	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0WB	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 894 342	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			<p>Approximately 1 ha in size, this natural and semi-natural greenspace is located on the Trent Floodplain and is in private ownership. It has a footpath on the eastern edge of the space from an adjoining residential area. It contains a shallow pond, and has an abundance of fauna and flora including mature trees, of which a number are protected.</p> <p>The area doesn't have public access from the road but it does provide a natural buffer from the residential development to the north and new development to the south. It offers a tranquil location in a beautiful natural environment with plentiful wildlife.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, beauty and wildlife. <p>Other reason: it is a buffer zone between two developments, and sited within the flood plain it also contains some protected trees.</p>			

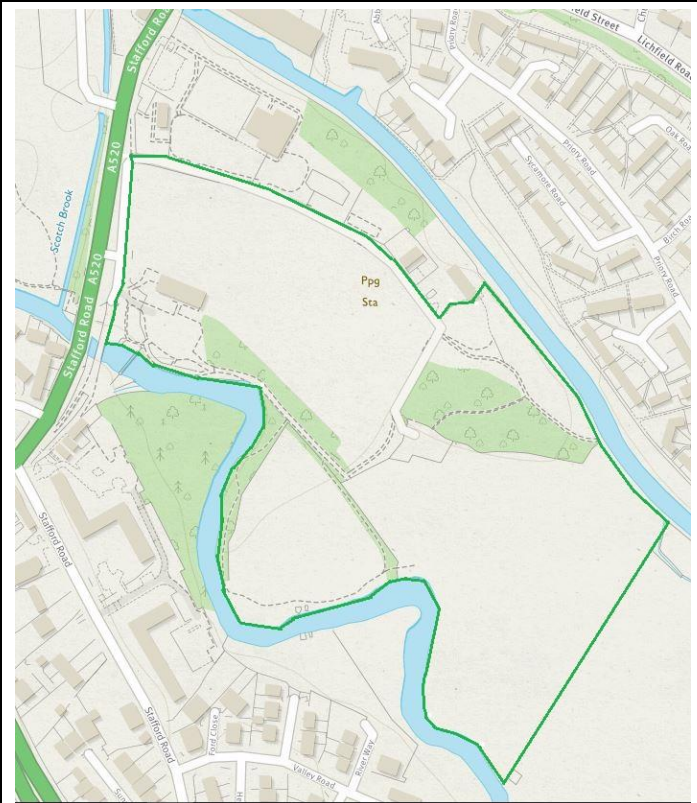
Protected Reference		LGS 42	Site Description: 	This is a larger amenity greenspace off Manor Rise with housing on three sides which has far more potential for informal recreation than the smaller closes on this 1940's development. It generates a strong sense of space to this densely populated area and further
Name		Tyler Grv.		
Location	Post Code	ST15 0JA		
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 894 333		
Type of protection		Local Green Space		
NPPF Para 77 Criteria				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its historic significance and recreational value. <p>Other reason: the area is highly valued by the local community who live in the vicinity and have views over this sizeable area of grass.</p>				
			enhancement could be made by the provision of seating, flowerbeds and a possible community orchard.	

Protected Ref.		LGS 43		Site Description: This is a semi-natural amenity greenspace situated in an established and densely populated housing development. It has an entrance marked by four mature trees. Two parallel pathways, located either side of a wrought iron fence which delineates the canal side, offer access to the area. It is popular one mile circular route with walkers, dog owners, anglers and joggers who can enjoy being close to nature
Name		Sycamore Rd.		
Location	Post Code	ST15 8NJ		
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 905 335		
Type of protection		Local Green Space		
NPPF Para 77 Criteria				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its beauty, tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. Other reason: the space engenders a sense of well-being amongst those in the local community who use it. Also acts as a wildlife corridor and buffer zone. 				
				

Protected Reference		LGS 44	<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This is a large tranquil area of Protected Space and Amenity greenspace of about 3 ha in size situated at the end of Common Lane. It is referred to as 'the common', albeit it does not hold true common status. It is an area popular with dog owners, walkers and children. The 1st Stone Scout troop uses the common and has a hut at the top of Common Lane. A football pitch is also provided,</p> <p>Other reason: this is a large area of grassland bounded by hedgerows on the edge of the extensive Walton housing developments. It is important for the communities' well-being, particularly as the SDL will increase pressure on local facilities.</p>	
Name		Walton Heath		
Location	Post Code	ST15 0XR		
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 893 324		
Type of protection		Local Green Space		
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. 			<p>As time progresses, Stone's residential development will expand in this direction. Currently Stafford Borough Council's SDL Stone West is adjacent to this area across the Eccleshall Road. It will therefore become even more important to secure the status of this space.</p>	

Continue next page

Site Reference		LGS 45	CF 30
Name		Westbridge Park	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8QW	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 903 335	
Type of protection		Local Green Space & Community Facilities (Destination & Festival Park)	



- NPPF Para 77 Criteria**
- Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated
 - Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan.
 - Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It hold particular local significance because of its: beauty, tranquillity, historical significance, recreational value and wildlife. Other reasons: the park is used for local festivals by Stone residents, a meeting place for coaches of visitors, a buffer zone and wildlife corridor for Crown Meadow, (Local Nature Reserve), and Southern Meadow, (Local Nature Reserve), and a natural buffer zone between the commercial Town Centre and the residential area of Walton, (Stone)

Site Description:

This is a park containing protected pitches and spaces. It also has natural and semi natural greenspaces extending beyond play areas. The Park is identified within Policies CAF1, CAF2, CAF3 & CAF4. Westbridge Park takes its name from Westbridge House which once stood where the park is today, and presumably that name had its origins from being west of the bridge that spanned the River Trent. It is situated between the Trent and Mersey Canal and the River Trent.

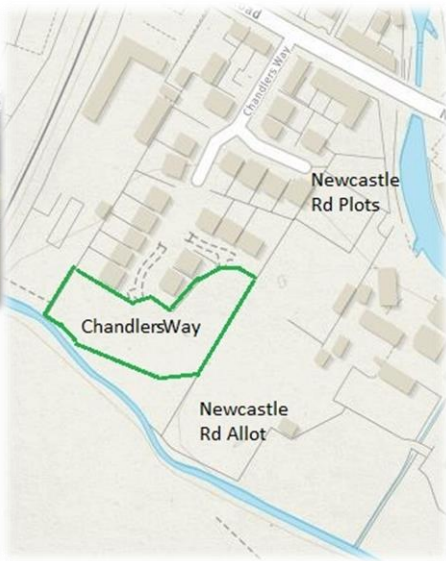



The park was opened in 1951 as part of the town’s Festival of Britain Celebrations and to commemorate the event a pair of wrought iron gates were produced by a local blacksmith. These gates are still there today by the pedestrian entrance to the park. Owned by Stafford Borough Council, facilities include expansive areas of grass, three tennis courts, a local equipped play area for children, a skate park, Scout and Guide buildings, and a fitness centre. It is also home to Stafford & Stone Canoe Club. The lower part of the park has just been seeded with wildflower seed and it is hoped to cultivate a meadow in this area.

It is the venue for many of the town’s festivals and events including Festival Week, the Food and Drink Festival, the Town Bonfire and the fair at the end of festival week in June each year. It also offers the opportunity for peaceful walks both in the meadows and along the canal and river, where the adjoining woodland is rich in wildlife.





Protected Reference		LGS 46		<p>Site Description:</p>  
Name		Whitemill		
Location	Post Code	ST15 0EG		
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 896 331		
Type of protection		Local Green Space		
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, historic significance, recreational value and wildlife. <p>Other reason: located within the densely-populated area of Walton, the area it vital in maintaining the well-being of the local community at various levels.</p>			<p>It is an important local equipped area for play and amenity green space. It contains a football pitch and basketball hoop and a large area of grass with mature trees and a thicket. Children use the space for both informal play and more formal games, whilst adults also exercise in the space.</p>	

Protected Reference		LGS 47		<p>Site Description:</p> 
Name		Chandlers Way		
Location	Post Code	ST15 8LD		
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 896 340		
Type of protection		Local Green Space		
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity and wildlife. <p>Other reason: Buffer zone between residentially amenity and flood plain</p>			<p>This open green space is at the end of Chandlers Way where the land falls gently down to the floodplain. It is amenity greenspace which is dissected by a small stream which at its westerly perimeter forms the boundary to the lowest part of the floodplain. This is a recent housing development which would suggest this area is considered unsuitable for further development, however it provides a pleasant vista over towards Trent meadows. Part of the area could be privately owned as one of the end properties have removed the developers' fencing and placed children's play structures in the area.</p>	

LGS 48 Removed

Protected Reference		LGS 49	CF 07	Site Description:  
Name		Little Stoke CC		
Location	Post Code	ST15 8RZ		
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 919 328		
Type of protection		Local Green Space & Community Facilities		
NPPF Para 77 Criteria				<p>An area of semi natural green playing fields, cricket wickets and bowling greens. Little Stoke Cricket Club was established in 1946 and considerable investment has been made over the years providing excellent playing and social facilities for the club including extensions to the pavilion and the construction of a new cricket ground. In 2007 a new Crown Green Bowling Club was constructed. There is a full Junior development programme leading into three senior sides which have produced many players for Staffordshire.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its recreational value, wildlife and tranquillity. 				

Protected Reference		LGS 50	CF 19	Site Description:  
Name		Stone Cemetery		
Location	Post Code	ST15 0BQ		
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 909 323		
Type of protection		Local Green Space		
NPPF Para 77 Criteria				<p>The cemetery on Stafford Road was opened on 5 September 1903. Is a community facility - cemetery and is part of the Green Infrastructure (GI). It has paved pathways, mature trees and open vistas onto the Trent floodplain (GI) and Southern Meadow (LNR). It offers a place for quiet contemplation and provides a rich environment for flora e.g. Black Poplar and fauna.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, beauty, historic significance and wildlife. <p>Other reason: the space acts as a buffer zone to a local LNR and generates feelings of well-being for the local community.</p>				

Protected Reference		LGS 51	CF 23
Name		Stone SP CC	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8JW	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 908 333	
Type of protection		Local Green Space & Community Facilities	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. 			



Site Description: Situated on the Lichfield Rd with alternative access from Priory Rd this formal green space contains cricket wickets and associated buildings. This is a longstanding active club, hosting both local and occasional county charity matches. Club facilities are available to hire by the local community and social


events organised by the club raise money for local charities. It therefore contributes to both the physical wellbeing and social cohesion of the local community. Croquet is also played here.


Protected Reference		LGS 52	CF 25
Name		Stone Y&C Centre	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8ER	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 897 343	
Type of protection		Local Green Space & Community Facilities	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity, recreational value and wildlife. 			

Site Description:



Although originally a Youth and Community Centre, it has now been taken over by Rising Brook Baptists who are re-establishing its community role amongst local groups and schools

Protected Reference		LGS 53	CF 31	Site Description: 	These allotments are owned by Stone Town Council. They are valued by the local community for the benefits they bring such as exercise, healthy lifestyle, home grown produce, and social interaction with likeminded people. They are also essential habitats for wildlife and therefore should be retained
Name		Chestnut Grv. Allot			
Location	Post Code	ST15 8GP			
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 895 347			
Type of protection		Local Green Space			
NPPF Para 77 Criteria					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its recreational value, tranquillity and allotments provide important green corridors for wildlife. 					

Protected Reference		LGS 54	CF 33	Site Description: This open green space on the periphery of Stone contains 28 large allotments, privately owned and then rented out to tenants. There is an allotment society and a strong community and often competitive spirit amongst the members. For the previously stated benefits that owning an allotment brings to quality of life they should remain as open green space. 
Name		Old Road Allot		
Location	Post Code	ST15 8HX		
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 902 349		
Type of protection		Local Green Space		
NPPF Para 77 Criteria				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its recreational value and tranquillity. The allotment provides important green corridors for wildlife 				

Continue next page

Protected Reference		LGS 55	CF 34
Name		Priory Rd Allot	
Location	Post Code	ST15 8NS	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 908 332	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its recreational value, tranquillity and wildlife. <p>Other reason: Allotments provide important green corridors for wildlife</p>			



Site Description:
Community Allotments. These small recently developed community allotment spaces, are jointly owned by Stafford and Rural Homes, (a social housing provider), and local residents.

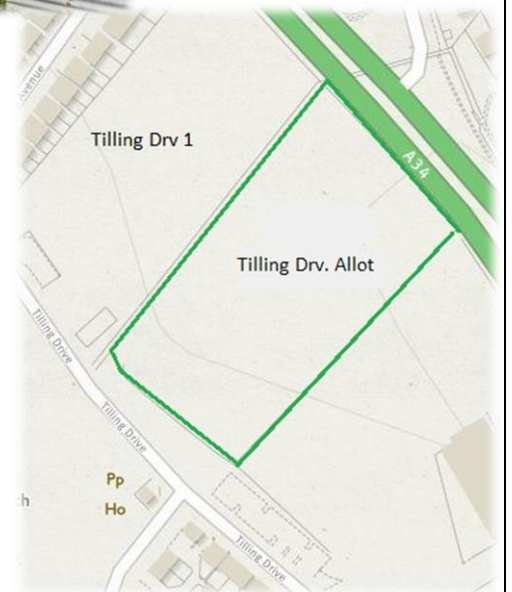



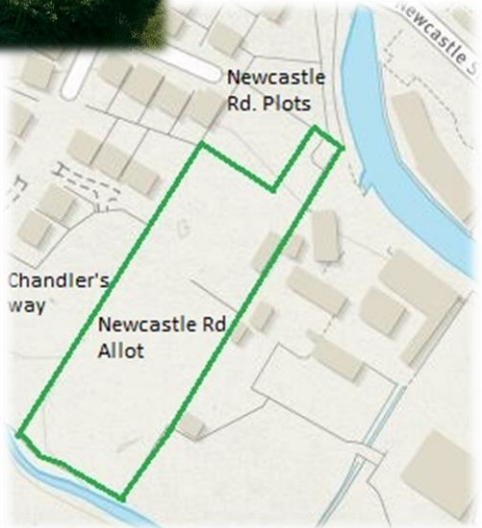
Protected Reference		LGS 56	CF 35
Name		Tilling Drive Allot.	
Location	Post Code	ST15 0SJ	
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 902 328	
Type of protection		Local Green Space	
NPPF Para 77 Criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its recreational value, tranquillity and wildlife. <p>Other reason: Allotments provide important green corridors for wildlife</p>			



Site Description:
These allotments have existed for at least 40 years and contain around 100 plots. The land was previously owned by a private company and had

been donated to the community resulting in the formation of Community Interest Company which oversees the allotments. It is very well tended, and evidences a strong and inclusive community ethos with a communal area for socialising, an area for children to grow produce and an easy access area with raised beds. It was commended in SBC Green Awards 2014 for their 'Community Area'



Protected Reference		LGS 57	CF 32	Site Description
Name		Newcastle Rd Allot		
Location	Post Code	ST15 8LD		
	OS Grid Ref	SJ 897 339		
Type of protection		Local Green Space		
<p>NPPF Para 77 Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated. • Not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan. • Additionally, the site meets the following criteria. It holds particular local significance because of its historic significance, recreational value. Allotments also provide important green corridors for wildlife 				
				 <p>This Local Green Space was once a former bottle tip belonging to Joules brewery and since has been reclaimed to form a community allotment owned by Stone Town Council. The land</p>
				<p>forms part of the Conservation Area identified as HUCA 6: "Trent and Mersey Canal" in the Stone Historic Character Assessment (May 2012) and defined as "Market garden and allotment" in its Historic Character Type. The space acts as an important buffer zone for wildlife from the canal to Trent flood plain the south.</p> 

End of document.

Stone Town Council



Data Protection Policy

July 2017

Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Statement of Policy	3
3	The Principles of Data Protection	3
4	Handling of personal/sensitive information	4
5	Implementation	5
6	Notification to the Information Commissioner.....	5
7	Public Register Entry	5

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Stone Town Council is committed to compliance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 (the Act) which came into force on the 1st March 2000.
- 1.2 The Council will therefore follow procedures that aim to ensure that all employees, elected members, contractors, agents, consultants, partners, or other servants of the Council who have access to any personal data held by, on or behalf of, the Council, are fully aware of and abide by their duties and responsibilities under the Act.

2 STATEMENT OF POLICY

- 2.1 In order to operate efficiently, the Council has to collect and use information about people with whom it works. This may include members of the public, current, past and prospective employees, clients and customers and suppliers. In addition, it may be required by Law to collect and use information in order to comply with the requirements of the Government.
- 2.2 This personal information must be handled and dealt with properly however it is collected, recorded and used and whether it be on paper, in computer records or recorded by any other means there are safeguards with the Act to ensure this.
- 2.3 The Council regards the lawful and correct treatment of personal information as very important to its successful operations and to maintaining confidence between the Council and those with whom it carries out business. The Council will ensure that it treats personal information lawfully and correctly. To this end the Council adheres to the principles of Data Protection as set out in the Data Protection Act 1998.

3 THE PRINCIPLES OF DATA PROTECTION

- 3.1 The Act stipulates that anyone processing personal data must comply with Eight Principles of good practice. These are legally enforceable.
- 3.2 The Principles require that personal information:
 - a. Shall be processed fairly and lawfully and, in particular, shall not be processed unless specific conditions are met.
 - b. Shall be obtained only for one or more specified and lawful purpose(s) and shall not be further processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or those purposes.
 - c. Shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose or purposes for which it is processed.
 - d. Shall be accurate and where necessary, kept up to date.

- e. Shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes.
 - f. Shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under the Act.
 - g. Shall be kept secure (protected by an appropriate degree of security).
 - h. Shall not be transferred to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area, unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of data protection.
- 3.3 The Act provides conditions for the processing of any personal data. It also makes a distinction between **personal data** and **sensitive personal data**.
- 3.4 **Personal data** is defined as data relating to a living individual who can be identified from:
- a. That data.
 - b. That data and other information which is in the possession of, or is likely to come into the possession of the data controller and includes an expression of opinion about the individual and any indication of the intentions of the data controller or any other person in respect of the individual.
- 3.5 **Sensitive personal data** is defined as personal data consisting of information as to:
- a. Racial or ethnic origin.
 - b. Political opinion.
 - c. Religious or other beliefs.
 - d. Trade union membership.
 - e. Physical or mental health or condition.
 - f. Sexual life.
 - g. Criminal proceedings or convictions.

4 HANDLING OF PERSONAL/SENSITIVE INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council will:
- a. Observe fully conditions regarding the fair collection and use of personal information.

- b. Meet its legal obligations to specify the purpose for which information is used.
- c. Collect and process appropriate information and only to the extent that it is needed to fulfil operational needs or to comply with any legal requirements.
- d. Ensure the quality of information used.
- e. Apply checks to determine the length of time information is held.
- f. Take appropriate measures to safeguard personal information.
- g. Ensure that the rights of people about whom the information is held can be fully exercised under the Act. This includes;
 - i The right to be informed that processing is being undertaken.
 - ii The right of access to one's personal information with the statutory 40 days.
 - iii The right to correct, rectify, block or erase information regarded as wrong information.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 Whilst the Council is ultimately responsible, the Town Clerk is the registered Data Controller and is responsible for ensuring adherence with the Act.

6 NOTIFICATION TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

- 6.1 The Information Commissioner maintains a public register of Data Controllers. The Act requires every Controller to notify and renew their notification on an annual basis. Failure to do so is a criminal offence. Should the Town Clerk resign the Information Commissioner must be notified immediately and the new Town Clerk duly registered with that office.

7 PUBLIC REGISTER ENTRY

- 7.1 A copy of the Council's public register entry is attached.



Register of data controllers

Entry details

Organisation name : Stone Town Council

Registration reference : A8195831

Application date : 03 July 2017

Organisation Address

Council Offices
15 Station Road
Stone
ST15 8JP

This data controller states that it is a public authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or a Scottish public authority under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Customer enquiry contact details

Town Clerk
Council Offices
15 Station Road
Stone
ST15 8JP
Email address: clerk@stonetowncouncil.org.uk

Nature of work description

Nature of work - Provision of council services

Description of processing

The following is a broad description of the way this organisation/data controller processes personal information. To understand how your own personal information is processed you may need to refer to any personal communications you have received, check any privacy notices the organisation has provided or contact the organisation to ask about your personal circumstances.

Reasons/purposes for processing information

We process personal information to enable us to carry out our statutory duties. We also process personal information to promote our services; undertake fundraising; maintain our accounts and records; manage and support our employees.

Type/classes of information processed

We process information relevant to the above reasons/purposes. This may include:

- personal details
- family details
- lifestyle and social circumstances
- education and employment details
- financial details
- goods and services

We also process sensitive classes of information that may include: physical or mental health details; racial or ethnic origin.

Who the information is processed about

We process personal information about:

- employees
- suppliers
- complainants, enquirers
- business contacts
- professional advisers and consultants
- residents of the parish
- elected representatives and holders of public office
- members of the parish council

Who the information may be shared with

We sometimes need to share the personal information we process with the individual themselves and also with other organisations. Where this is necessary we are required to comply with all aspects of the Data Protection Act (DPA). What follows is a description of the types of organisations we may need to share some of the personal information we process with for one or more reasons.

Where necessary or required we share information with:

- educators and examining bodies
- suppliers and service providers
- persons making an enquiry or complaint
- local government
- press and the media
- family, associates and representatives of the person whose personal data we are processing
- current, past and prospective employers
- financial organisations

Transfers

It may sometimes be necessary to transfer personal information overseas. When this is needed information is only shared within the European Economic Area (EEA). Any transfers made will be in full compliance with all aspects of the data protection act.

Stone Town Council - General Purposes Committee

5th September 2017

Budget Monitoring – June 2017

Report of Town Clerk

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of the Council's current financial position compared with its budget for the year, and to recommend action in any areas of concern.

Background

2. The Council's budget was approved in February 2017. Good financial management requires the Council to:
 - a. Keep the amount of the budget that it requires under review,
 - b. Monitor spending and income against budget projections, and,
 - c. Take appropriate action to ensure that the Council's financial stability is maintained.
3. This one of a series of regular reports which are presented to the General Purposes Committee on a broadly quarterly basis. The reports consider the Council's financial position at the end of the most recent month available at the time the report is written. On this occasion, the report considers the position as at the end of June 2017.
4. The report will first look at any adjustments proposed to the budget for 2017-18. It will then highlight any areas where net spending differs from that planned in the budget and focus on the income received from the Council's major income generating activities.
5. Finally, the report will list spending by the Council (excluding salaries, salary related costs and the Mayor's Charity Fund) for the period since the last budget monitoring report for Members' information.

Adjustments to 2017-18 Budget

6. The meeting of the Council on 6th June 2017 considered the final accounts for 2016-17 and approved a number of unspent budgets to be rolled over into the current year. These rollovers have now been added to the approved budget of the Council.
7. Appendix A sets out the agreed budget adjustments and the consequent changes to the current approved budget.

Comparison of Budget with Actual Spending and Income

8. Appendix B sets out a comparison of the budget to date with spending up to the end of June 2017. The budget to date has been estimated with reference to spending patterns in the previous year and other available information, but is a fairly broad estimate with a significant margin for error in most areas of the budget. Nevertheless it is a good starting point for identification of potential problems.
9. Members should note that positive numbers in the table reflect expenditure or an adverse variance (overspend), whereas negative numbers represent income or a favourable variance (underspend).
10. Overall, at the end of June 2017, net spending was £61,449 compared with a budget up to that time of £68,120 – a net underspending to date of £6,671.
11. Significant adverse variances within this figure are:
 - a. Frank Jordan Centre Income (£1,743): This shortfall in income is partly compensated for by reduced expenditure of £611, leaving the Centre £1,132 overspent overall.
 - b. Town Market Income (£2,196): Market income is down against expectations, but this is partially compensated by a reduction in expenditure of £1,593, leaving Markets £603 overspent overall.
12. Significant favourable variances are:
 - a. Public Conveniences (£1,500): The legal agreement with Stafford Borough Council for transfer of responsibility for Station Road Toilets is still awaited. The Borough are continuing with the upkeep of the toilets until such time as the agreement is completed. There has therefore been no expenditure by this Council so far.
 - b. Westbridge Park (£1,500): The consideration of the proposed transfer of responsibility for the “Green” area of Westbridge Park to this Council has been deferred pending the outcome of the leisure related developments currently proposed by the Borough.
 - c. Civic Dinner and Hospitality (£1,361): This relates to the invoice for the Civic Dinner, which has not yet been paid.
13. It can thus be seen at this stage that costs are generally under control, though actual net spending varies from the estimated approved budget to date in some areas.

Income from Major Income Generating Activities

14. Income from the Frank Jordan Centre, Stone Station and the Town Market together represents around 20% of the Council’s total income. Virtually all of the remaining income is fixed in advance of the year (Precept/Concurrent Functions Allowance), but this 20% can vary within the year in accordance with the Council’s success with letting its community centres and market stalls.

15. With this in mind, Members need to closely monitor these income items to ensure that its budget remains in balance.
16. Attached at Appendix C are a set of graphs showing a comparison of income received to date with the level anticipated for each month. Whilst it must be remembered that the way the income has been profiled is quite crude, the graphs are showing a position where income is below target for the Frank Jordan Centre and Town Market, but above target for the Station.

Council Spending

17. Appendix D lists all spending (excluding salaries, salary related costs and the Mayor's Charity Fund) for the period since the last budget monitoring report to the end of June 2017 for Members' information.

Recommendations

18. The Committee is recommended to:
 - a. Approve the adjustments to the Council's budget set out at Appendix A.
 - b. Note the Council's performance against budget at the end of June 2017.
 - c. Note the details of the Council's spending since the last budget monitoring report.
 - d. Consider any action it wishes to take in the light of the information within this report.

Stone Town Council

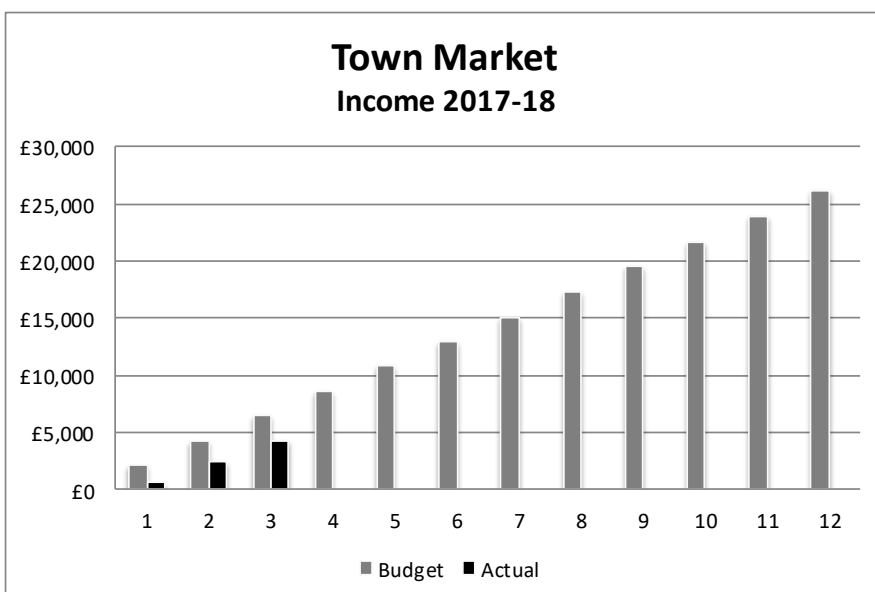
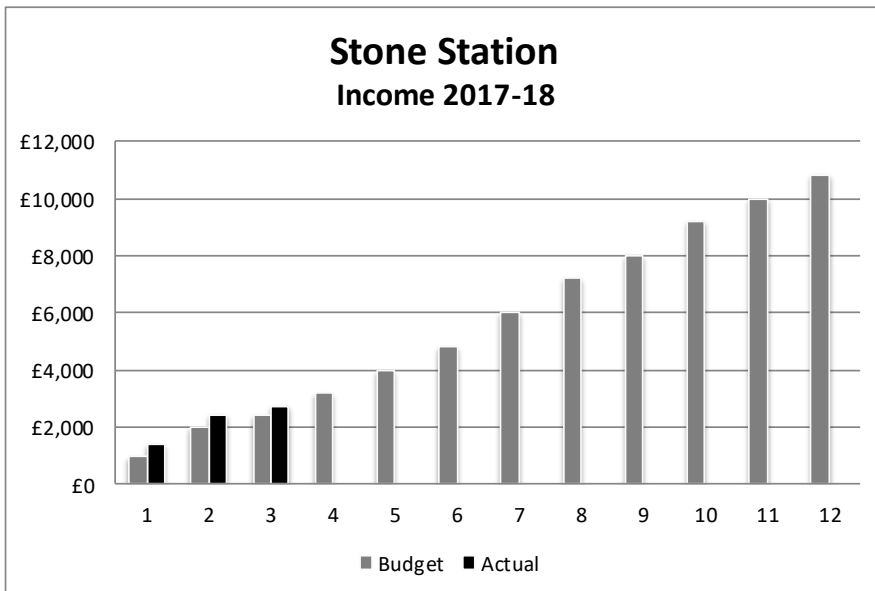
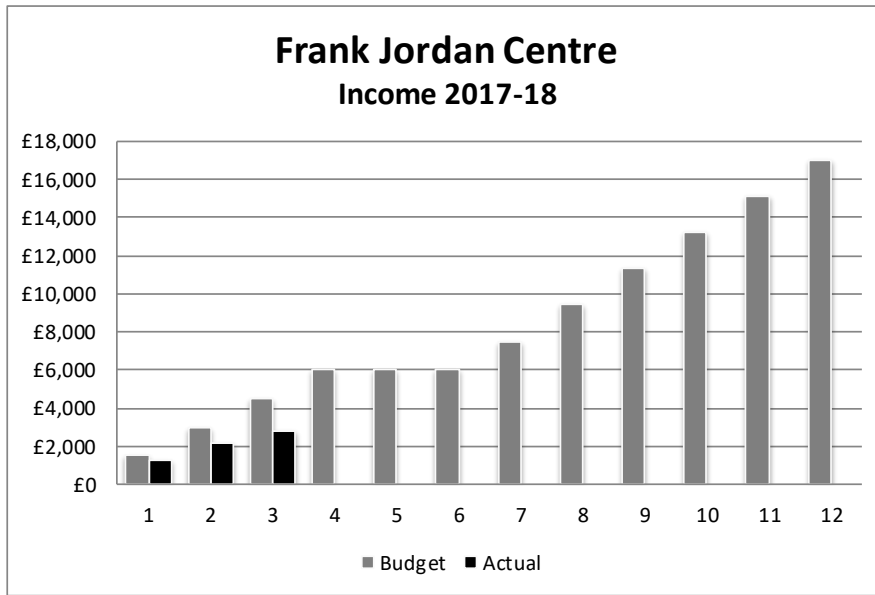
Budget Adjustments 2016-17

	Contribution to (from) Reserves £	Bus Shelters & Street Furniture £	Crown Meadow Imp'ments £	Grants to Outside Bodies £	Admin- istration £	Allotments £	Civic Regalia £	Frank Jordan Centre £	£	£
Council 6th June 2017										
Rollover re Bus Shelters and Street Furniture	-500	500								
Rollover re Crown Meadow Improvements	-730		730							
Rollover re Grants to Outside Bodies	-800			800						
Rollover re Administration	-15,000				15,000					
Rollover re Allotments	-1,000					1,000				
Rollover re Civic Regalia	-1,000						1,000			
Rollover re Frank Jordan Centre	-45,000							45,000		
Removal of FJC Rollover also included in original budget	45,000							-45,000		
TOTAL	-19,030	500	730	800	15,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0
Original Budget	-99,675	6,800	3,700	8,400	20,000	100	500	95,900	0	0
Current Budget	-118,705	7,300	4,430	9,200	35,000	1,100	1,500	95,900	0	0

Stone Town Council

Budget Monitoring Statement 2017-18

	Revenue Account to End of Period 3					Jun-17
	Original Budget £	Current Budget £	Budget to Date £	Actual to Date £	Variance to Date £	Budget Remaining £
Major Income Generating Activities						
Frank Jordan Centre						
Income	-17,000	-17,000	-4,500	-2,757	1,743	-14,243
Expenditure	<u>112,900</u>	<u>112,900</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>5,389</u>	<u>-611</u>	<u>107,511</u>
Net	95,900	95,900	1,500	2,632	1,132	93,268
Stone Station						
Income	-10,800	-10,800	-2,400	-2,738	-338	-8,062
Expenditure	<u>15,400</u>	<u>15,400</u>	<u>4,100</u>	<u>5,189</u>	<u>1,089</u>	<u>10,211</u>
Net	4,600	4,600	1,700	2,451	751	2,149
Town Market						
Income	-26,100	-26,100	-6,500	-4,304	2,196	-21,796
Expenditure	<u>19,500</u>	<u>19,500</u>	<u>4,800</u>	<u>3,207</u>	<u>-1,593</u>	<u>16,293</u>
Net	-6,600	-6,600	-1,700	-1,097	603	-5,503
Other Activities						
Car Parking	5,900	5,900	1,400	1,738	338	4,162
Bus Shelters & Street Furniture	6,800	7,300	600	200	-400	7,100
Public Conveniences	6,200	6,200	1,500	0	-1,500	6,200
Street Lighting	500	500	0	0	0	500
Dog & Litter Bins	700	700	170	180	10	520
Joules Clock	0	0	0	0	0	0
Town Electricity Supply	200	200	50	26	-24	174
Building Maintenance	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Grounds Maintenance	14,100	14,100	3,300	2,356	-944	11,744
Crown Meadow Improvements	3,700	4,430	900	475	-425	3,955
Westbridge Park	6,200	6,200	1,500	0	-1,500	6,200
Allotments	100	1,100	400	-414	-814	1,514
Christmas Lights	15,000	15,000	1,500	956	-544	14,044
Advertising	500	500	500	360	-140	140
Tourism & Town Promotion	20,900	20,900	3,400	3,115	-285	17,785
Grants to Outside Bodies	8,400	9,200	1,500	1,000	-500	8,200
Salaries & Employment Costs	129,600	129,600	32,400	32,226	-174	97,374
Accommodation	4,200	4,200	200	125	-75	4,075
Insurances	8,000	8,000	9,400	9,581	181	-1,581
Administration	20,000	35,000	4,500	3,826	-674	31,174
Audit & Legal Fees	900	900	-800	-780	20	1,680
Town Council Elections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allowances - Mayor & Deputy Mayor	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,957	-43	43
Regalia & Presentations	500	1,500	200	288	88	1,212
Civic Dinner & Hospitality	1,000	1,000	300	-1,061	-1,361	2,061
Remembrance Sunday & War Memorials	1,500	1,500	0	60	60	1,440
Miscellaneous	1,700	1,700	350	257	-93	1,443
Interest	-600	-600	-150	-8	142	-592
Neighbourhood Plan	22,000	22,000	500	0	-500	22,000
Total	<u>384,900</u>	<u>403,930</u>	<u>68,120</u>	<u>61,449</u>	<u>-6,671</u>	<u>342,481</u>
Precept & Financing	-285,225	-285,225	-142,625	-142,593	32	
Contribution to (from) Reserves	<u>-99,675</u>	<u>-118,705</u>	<u>74,505</u>	<u>81,144</u>	<u>6,639</u>	



Stone Town Council

Payments – 1 October 2016 to 30 June 2017

Date	Reference	Supplier	Description	Amount
03/10/2016	16362	Lawrence Davis	Amendments to Website	£45.00
03/10/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Crown Street Car Park	£225.00
03/10/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Northesk Street Car Park	£98.00
03/10/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£421.00
03/10/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Stone Station Community Centre	£218.00
03/10/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£290.00
03/10/2016	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£16.25
05/10/2016	16366	Empire Hire Ltd	Music Festival - Stage, barriers & electrical supply	£1,250.00
05/10/2016	16365	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£101.17
05/10/2016	16363	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection - FJC	£122.15
05/10/2016	16363	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection - STN	£110.15
05/10/2016	16367	Empire Hire Ltd	Generator, PA wings, lighting & barriers - Jo Clarke homecom	£1,120.00
06/10/2016	16379	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery , printer catridges	£27.89
06/10/2016	16377	Virgin Media Payments Ltd	Telephone calls Sept 16, rental Oct 16	£41.83
06/10/2016	16368	Angel Springs Ltd	Water machine supplies - FJC	£19.02
06/10/2016	16368	Angel Springs Ltd	Water machine supplies - STN	£7.20
06/10/2016	16378	Stafford Borough Council	Qtly rent of store room	£150.00
07/10/2016	D/Dbt	Francotyp Postalia	Postage	£200.00
07/10/2016	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£17.22
10/10/2016	16380	M J Plant	Frank Jordan - clean out guttering	£65.00
10/10/2016	16381	Grant Thornton UK LLP	Fee in respect of 2016 Annual Return	£800.00
10/10/2016	16380	M J Plant	Allotments - tap repairs	£30.80
10/10/2016	16380	M J Plant	Grounds maintenance	£1,052.00
11/10/2016	16383	Mrs C A Parton	Reimbursement for 3 x keys - allotments	£11.25
11/10/2016	16382	R Mountford (Stone) LTD	Cable ties	£8.32
11/10/2016	16384	Voice 2 Voice	Broadband line - calls Sept 16 & rental Oct 16	£13.68
13/10/2016	16385	Stafford Borough Council	Renewal of Premises Licence	£70.00
13/10/2016	D/Dbt	British Gas	Electricity FJC	£294.13
13/10/2016	16386	Stafford Borough Council	Renewal of Lottery Licence	£20.00
17/10/2016	16387	Hampshire Flag Company	Handheld flags - Trafalgar Dinner	£51.70
17/10/2016	16388	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£14.59
18/10/2016	16389	STC Petty Cash A/c	Reimbursement of petty cash a/c	£250.85
24/10/2016	16390	Staffordshire Parish Councils	Chairman's Skills Course x 1	£20.00
24/10/2016	16391	MEB Total Ltd	Electrical work - toilets FJC	£220.46
24/10/2016	16392	Panda Press (Stone) Ltd	Order of Service - Remembrance	£235.00
24/10/2016	16393	Atlas Contractors Ltd	Cleaning of FJC - October 2016	£536.19
25/10/2016	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas - FJC	£197.53
28/10/2016	16395	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£39.73
28/10/2016	16396	Panda Press (Stone) Ltd	Replacement date stickers - xmas banners	£52.00
31/10/2016	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£88.77
31/10/2016	16397	Hylands	New Vacuum cleaner - STN	£91.58
01/11/2016	D/Dbt	Open Spaces	Membership	£45.00
01/11/2016	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£16.25
03/11/2016	D/Dbt	Francotyp Postalia	Postage	£200.00
03/11/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£421.00
03/11/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£290.00
03/11/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Stone Station Community Centre	£218.00
03/11/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Northesk Street Car Park	£98.00
03/11/2016	16399	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£174.19
03/11/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Crown Street Car Park	£225.00
04/11/2016	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Stone Station	£60.28

07/11/2016	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£17.22
10/11/2016	16408	EON	Electricity at Crown Meadow	£24.08
11/11/2016	16414	Kent & Sussex Vending	Vending machine supplies	£50.45
11/11/2016	16415	Npower Ltd	Electricity Pillar 1 & 2	£36.75
11/11/2016	16412	City B Group Ltd	Erection & dismantling of marquees	£978.00
11/11/2016	16413	Voice 2 Voice Ltd	Broadband line calls Oct 16 Rental Nov 16	£13.68
11/11/2016	16411	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection - FJC	£102.15
11/11/2016	16411	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection - STN	£69.86
11/11/2016	16410	Virgin Media Payments Ltd	Telephone call Oct 16 rental Nov 16	£48.23
11/11/2016	16409	M J Plant	Allotments	£100.00
11/11/2016	16409	M J Plant	Crown Meadow Improvements	£1,610.00
11/11/2016	16409	M J Plant	Bus shelters	£233.00
11/11/2016	16409	M J Plant	Grounds maintenance	£100.00
11/11/2016	16417	Severn Trent Water Ltd	Water charges - FJC 17 05 16 - 01 11 16	£193.26
11/11/2016	16416	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery/ cartridges	£245.55
15/11/2016	16420	Stafford Borough Council	Road closure - Remembrance Sunday	£50.00
15/11/2016	16420	Stafford Borough Council	Road closure - Xmas light switch-on	£50.00
15/11/2016	16420	Stafford Borough Council	Road closure xmas market	£100.00
15/11/2016	16418	Current Electrical & Property	Supply, manufacture & install electricity box in Mill Street	£723.00
15/11/2016	16419	The Stone Gazette Ltd	Advertisement - xmas lights switch-on	£200.00
15/11/2016	16423	British Telecommunications plc	Fire alarm line - FJC	£84.90
15/11/2016	16421	Hammond Hygiene Solutions Ltd	Hygiene Supplies - STN	£25.95
15/11/2016	16422	British Telecommunications plc	Fire alarm line - STN	£84.90
16/11/2016	16425	J Shakeshaft	Entertainment - Switch-On	£150.00
16/11/2016	16426	Adam Cornes	Entertainment - Switch-On	£200.00
16/11/2016	16424	Canal & River Trust	Rent of Crown Wharf 01 12 16 - 31 12 16	£125.00
17/11/2016	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Stone Station	£345.18
22/11/2016	16433	Empire Hire Ltd	Hire of stage & sound system - switch-on	£1,575.00
22/11/2016	16432	Current Electrical & Property	Marquee lights/ temporary power x 2 - Switch-ON	£600.00
22/11/2016	16431	The Crown Hotel Stone	Reception - Remembrance Day	£383.33
22/11/2016	16430	TMR Executive Agency Ltd	Franking machine - annual maintenance Jan 17 Dec 17	£170.26
22/11/2016	16427	Atlas Contractors Ltd	Cleaning of FJC Nov 16	£536.19
22/11/2016	16429	Steve's Sound Systems	PA System - Remembrance & Armistice Day	£230.00
22/11/2016	16428	Mr B Hull	3 x floodlights - Plane Tree	£624.00
23/11/2016	16434	Christmas Plus Ltd	Replacement RCBO - Plane Tree	£70.00
23/11/2016	16435	Panda Press Stone Ltd	Xmas cards 2016	£172.00
25/11/2016	16438	MEB Total Ltd	Qtly fire alarm test - FJC	£66.25
25/11/2016	16436	J G Fenn Ltd	Connect gear cable	£2.73
25/11/2016	16437	Granvilles	Hospitality - Xmas Switch-On	£57.75
29/11/2016	16439	SLCC	CILCA resubmission	£125.00
29/11/2016	16440	Severn Trent Water Ltd	Water charges - STN 23 06 16 - 18 11 16	£489.54
29/11/2016	16441	Severn Trent Water Ltd	Water charges - Mt Rd allot 13 05 16 - 22 11 16	£91.17
30/11/2016	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£99.72
30/11/2016	16442	MJ Plant	Grounds maintenance - boaders & roundabout	£3,557.90
30/11/2016	D/Dbt	MJ Plant	Removal of fallen tree - N/C Rd allotment	£550.00
01/12/2016	16451	City B Group Ltd	Marquees - switch-on	£249.00
01/12/2016	16451	City B Group Ltd	Erecting and dismantling of marquees - Nov 16	£1,055.00
01/12/2016	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£16.25
05/12/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Northesk Street Car Park	£98.00
05/12/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£421.00
05/12/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Crown Street Car Park	£225.00
05/12/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£290.00
05/12/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Stone Station Community Centre	£218.00
05/12/2016	16452	Veolia ES(UK)Ltd	Waste collection - STN Nov 16	£89.86
05/12/2016	16452	Veolia ES(UK)Ltd	Waste collection - FJC - Nov 16	£101.86
06/12/2016	16454	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£1.62
06/12/2016	16453	BMA Window Cleaner	Cleaning of windows - FJC	£65.00
06/12/2016	16453	BMA Window Cleaner	Cleaning of windows - STN	£25.00
07/12/2016	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£19.04

07/12/2016	16456	Virgin Media Payments Ltd	Telephone charges Nov 16 rental Dec 16	£52.78
07/12/2016	16455	Severn Trent Water Ltd	Water charges - Allots N/C Rd 31 05 16 - 23 11 16	£69.98
12/12/2016	16459	Stafford Borough Council	Emptying of doggie bins Oct, Nov & Dec 2016	£174.54
12/12/2016	16458	Cress Security Co Ltd	Call out & 6mthly alarm maintenance	£120.00
12/12/2016	16457	Angel Springs Ltd	Water cooler supplies	£4.62
13/12/2016	16460	PC World Business	Live Safe - Anti Virus	£76.64
14/12/2016	16461	Canal & River Trust	Rent of Crown Wharf 01 01 17 - 31 01 17	£125.00
14/12/2016	D/Dbt	Francotyp Postalia	Postage	£200.00
14/12/2016	16462	Altodigital Networks Ltd	Photocopying charges 07 09 16 - 02 12 16	£90.71
15/12/2016	16463	Protec Fire Detection plc	Annual maintenance of fire alarm system	£409.88
16/12/2016	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Stone station	£336.43
19/12/2016	16465	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£31.88
19/12/2016	16464	Halton Promotional	Lone Star Flag	£94.25
20/12/2016	16466	Christmas Plus Ltd	Installation of Christmas Lights	£3,861.90
20/12/2016	16467	Stone Community Hub	Sept, Oct , Nov instalment of annual grant Min No GP17/008	£1,500.00
23/12/2016	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - FJC	£946.43
28/12/2016	D/Dbt	Network Rail	Rent of Stone Station 25 12 16 - 24 03 17	£987.50
30/12/2016	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£66.98
03/01/2017	16469	British Telecommunications plc	Dec 16 broadband	£73.30
03/01/2017	16468	Sage (UK) LTD	P60's	£27.46
03/01/2017	16470	Stafford Borough Council	By Election 15 Sept 2016	£8,493.96
03/01/2017	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£13.00
03/01/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Northesk Street Car Park	£98.00
03/01/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£290.00
03/01/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Stone Station Community Centre	£218.00
03/01/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£421.00
03/01/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Crown Street Car Park	£225.00
04/01/2017	16482	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection - Dec 16 FJC	£102.15
04/01/2017	16472	Victoria Asset Finance	Qtly rental of franking machine 18 01 17 - 14 04 17	£60.00
04/01/2017	16471	MEB Total Ltd	6mthly Emergency light testing & remedial work - fjc	£274.44
04/01/2017	16473	Siemens Financial Services Ltd	Qtly rent of photocopier	£250.00
04/01/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Electricity supply Stone Station	£343.08
04/01/2017	16482	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection - Dec 16 STN	£110.44
06/01/2017	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£18.02
09/01/2017	16488	Protec Fire Detection plc	Replacement heat detector - STN	£19.60
09/01/2017	16487	Virgin Media Payments Ltd	Telephone calls Dec 16 - line rental Jan 17	£41.72
09/01/2017	16486	City B Group Ltd	Erection & dismantling of marquees - Dec 16	£976.00
09/01/2017	16485	Angel Springs Ltd	Water cooler service - FJC	£14.40
09/01/2017	16484	R Mountford (Stone) Ltd	Padlocks x 4 - electric pillars in High Street	£76.63
09/01/2017	16485	Angel Springs Ltd	Water cooler service - STN	£7.20
11/01/2017	16489	Current Electrical & Property	New electrical box - Walton Roundabout - xmas display	£500.00
11/01/2017	16490	Stafford Borough Council	Qtly rent of storeroom & TC office	£150.00
12/01/2017	16491	Halton Print & Promotional	Stainless Steel Clip for flag	£7.50
13/01/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Stone station	£277.29
16/01/2017	16493	Sage (UK) Ltd	Sage Instant Payroll - Annual Licence Plan	£180.00
16/01/2017	16492	Mr B Hull	10 x LED lamps for Station floodlights	£88.00
17/01/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Electricity FJC	£452.96
17/01/2017	16494	MEB Total Ltd	PAT Testing - Office	£67.00
17/01/2017	16494	MEB Total Ltd	PAT Testing - STN	£10.00
17/01/2017	16494	MEB Total Ltd	PAT Testing - FJC	£12.00
18/01/2017	16496	Site Supply Solutions Ltd	50 Hi Vis vests customised	£224.50
18/01/2017	16495	Stone House Hotel	Deposit - Civic Dinner - 2017	£125.00
19/01/2017	16498	Christmas Plus Ltd	Dismantle xmas lights 2016	£1,655.10
19/01/2017	16497	Stone in Bloom	12 x xmas trees & lights	£324.00
19/01/2017	16499	Canal & River Trust	Rent of Crown Wharf 01 02 17 - 28 02 17	£125.00
20/01/2017	16500	Staffordshire Playing Fields	Subscription	£15.00
23/01/2017	16501	BMA Window Cleaner	Cleaning of windows - STN	£25.00
23/01/2017	16501	BMA Window Cleaner	Cleaning of windows - FJC	£65.00
25/01/2017	16502	MEB Total Ltd	Qtly fire alarm test - FJC	£66.25

26/01/2017	16504	Cress Security Company Ltd	Annual mon & maint of intruder alarm - FJC	£350.00
26/01/2017	16503	Altodigital Network Ltd	Photocopying charges 02 12 16 - 03 01 17	£14.78
30/01/2017	16506	Atlas Contractors Ltd	Cleaning of Frank Jordan Centre - Jan 17	£536.19
30/01/2017	16505	Shelutions Ltd	Replacement seat - bus shelter Eccleshall Rd	£380.00
31/01/2017	16507	Atlas Contractors Ltd	Cleaning of Frank Jordan Centre - Dec 16	£536.19
31/01/2017	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£51.21
01/02/2017	16508	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£70.04
02/02/2017	16509	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection - FJC	£107.23
02/02/2017	16509	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection - STN	£73.67
03/02/2017	16510	City B Group Ltd	Erection & Dismantling of marquees - Jan 17	£625.00
06/02/2017	16512	Virgin Media Payments Ltd	Telephone calls Jan 17 - Line rental Feb 17	£43.36
06/02/2017	16513	Visit Stafford	Visit Stafford' Membership 2017	£30.00
06/02/2017	16511	Angel Springs Ltd	Water machine supplies - STN	£30.15
06/02/2017	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£18.45
08/02/2017	16514	SLCC	Re submission of CILCA	£50.00
09/02/2017	16516	TMR Executive Agency Ltd	Ink cartridge for franking machine	£147.00
09/02/2017	16515	E.ON	Electricity - Crown Meadow	£24.61
09/02/2017	16517	Stafford Borough Council	Road closure - Craft Markets	£100.00
21/02/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Stone station	£522.01
22/02/2017	16522	M J Plant	Maintenance of cenotaph x 2 install/ dismantle stands	£420.00
22/02/2017	16523	British Telecommunications plc	Fire alarm line - FJC	£84.90
22/02/2017	16525	Staffordshire Parish Councils	4 x delegates - training course	£55.00
22/02/2017	16522	M J Plant	Removal of bullrushes	£1,620.00
22/02/2017	16526	Canal & River Trust	Rent of Crown Wharf 01 03 17 - 31 03 17	£125.00
22/02/2017	16528	MEB Total Ltd	Qtly fire alarm testing - FJC	£66.25
22/02/2017	16529	ADT Fire & Security plc	BT Redcare - STN alarm 20 02 17 - 19 02 18	£151.20
22/02/2017	16521	Halton Print & Promotion	St George's Flag	£80.50
22/02/2017	16520	JG Fenn LTD	Stationery	£72.92
22/02/2017	16527	British Telecommunications plc	Fire of line - STN 01-02-17 - 30-04-17	£84.90
22/02/2017	16524	Siemens Financial Services	qtly rent of photocopier	£150.00
23/02/2017	16530	Atlas Contractors Ltd	Cleaning of FJC - February 17	£536.19
23/02/2017	D/Dbt	Francotyp Postalia	Postage	£200.00
23/02/2017	16531	B Hygienic Ltd	Hygiene services - STN - Feb 17 Jan 18	£598.00
24/02/2017	16532	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£95.09
28/02/2017	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£52.95
02/03/2017	16537	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection - STN	£94.36
02/03/2017	16537	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection - FJC	£106.36
02/03/2017	16535	Young Enterprise (Mid&N Staffs	Grant Min No GP17/154 refers	£250.00
02/03/2017	16536	Stone & District Scout Council	Grant Min No GP17/154 refers	£500.00
02/03/2017	16538	City B Group Ltd	Erection & dismantling of marquees - Feb 17	£625.00
08/03/2017	16541	M J Plant	Northesk - prune all trees, bushes etc	£220.00
08/03/2017	16541	M J Plant	Fence @ Anglers Car Park	£180.00
08/03/2017	16541	M J Plant	Removal of bull rushes/ storm damage trees	£400.00
08/03/2017	16542	Mr. F. C. Heath	Reimbursement for damaged shed on allotment	£220.00
08/03/2017	16539	Angel Springs Ltd	Water machine supplies	£6.93
08/03/2017	16540	Current Electrical & Property	Supply & install new lights - Joules Clock	£200.00
09/03/2017	16545	Hammonds Hygiene Solutions Ltd	Hygiene Supplies - FJC	£17.50
09/03/2017	16544	Staffordshire Parish Councils'	Subscription 2017-2018	£926.00
09/03/2017	16543	Virgin Media Payments Ltd	Telephone charges - Feb 17 & Line Rental - March 17	£44.08
09/03/2017	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£17.35
10/03/2017	D/Dbt	Francotyp Postalia	Postage	£200.00
13/03/2017	16548	Stafford Borough Council	Quarterly charge emptying doggie bins-Jan Feb Mar 17	£174.54
13/03/2017	16547	Community Council of Staffords	Subscription 2017-2018	£25.00
13/03/2017	16549	J. G. Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£31.17
15/03/2017	16551	Stafford Borough Council	Application to vary premises licence	£23.00
15/03/2017	16550	Currys PC World Business	My Book Essential 3TB USB	£88.99
22/03/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - FJC	£1,662.04
23/03/2017	16553	TMR Executive Agency Ltd	Postal Rate Change	£99.50
23/03/2017	16554	Atlas Contractors Ltd	Cleaning of FJC - March 2017	£536.19

23/03/2017	16552	Stone Community Hub	Dec 16 Jan&Feb 17 instalments of Grant-Min No GP17/008	£1,500.00
27/03/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Stone Station	£331.70
27/03/2017	D/Dbt	Network Rail	Rent of Stone Station 25 03 17 - 24 06 17	£987.50
28/03/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Electricity supply - Stone Station	£348.67
29/03/2017	16559	Victoria Asset Finance	Qtly rental of franking machine 18 04 17 - 17 07 17	£60.00
29/03/2017	16558	Alleyne's Academy	Hire of room - mtg - 04 04 17	£135.00
29/03/2017	16557	Mrs C A Parton	Reimbursement for cost of notice for variation of licence	£135.60
30/03/2017	16560	R Mountford (Stone) Ltd	Replacement lock & keys - FJC	£23.09
30/03/2017	16561	Altodigital Networks Ltd	Photocopying charges	£41.54
31/03/2017	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£59.95
31/03/2017	16562	City B Group Ltd	Erection & dismantling of marquees - Mar 17	£575.00
03/04/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Stone Station Community Centre	£207.00
03/04/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£409.20
03/04/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Crown Street Car Park	£241.39
03/04/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Northesk Street Car Park	£104.69
03/04/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£236.66
04/04/2017	17/002	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection - Station - March 2017	£116.79
04/04/2017	17/001	RBL Poppy Appeal	3 Poppy Wreaths	£60.00
04/04/2017	17/002	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection - Frank Jordan Centre - March 2017	£128.79
06/04/2017	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£17.95
11/04/2017	17/011	BMA Window Cleaner	Cleaning of windows at Stone Station	£25.00
11/04/2017	17/012	Lawrence Davis	500 x Town Clerk letterheads	£85.00
11/04/2017	17/013	M. J. Plant	Grounds Maintenance	£878.00
11/04/2017	17/008	Virgin Media Payments Ltd	Telephone charges - March 17 - Rental - April 17	£56.89
11/04/2017	17/011	BMA Window Cleaner	Cleaning of windows at Frank Jordan Centre	£65.00
11/04/2017	17/013	M. J. Plant	Stone Station - powerwash yard etc	£267.00
11/04/2017	17/016	Christ Church PCC	Room Booking for Traders Meeting - 30/03/17	£104.00
11/04/2017	17/017	Stafford Borough Council	Election Recharge - 3rd Instalment due 30/04/17	£5,000.00
11/04/2017	17/018	Christmas Plus Ltd	Anchor Point testing x 56	£1,316.00
11/04/2017	17/019	Stafford Borough Council	Quarterly rent of storeroom and Town Council office	£125.00
11/04/2017	17/010	ADT Fire & Security PLC	Annual maintenance intruder alarm - 26/04/17-25/04/18	£481.36
11/04/2017	17/009	Hammonds Hygiene Solutions	Cleaning sundries - Station	£29.98
11/04/2017	17/007	Mr W L Trigg	Reimbursement for CPALC subscription	£15.00
11/04/2017	17/004	ALCC	ALCC Membership for SLCC Members	£10.00
11/04/2017	17/003	Society of Local Council Clerk	Membership - 01/01/17 - 31/12/17	£157.00
11/04/2017	17/013	M. J. Plant	Bus Shelters	£819.00
11/04/2017	17/013	M. J. Plant	Frank Jordan Centre repair water heater & fire door	£75.00
11/04/2017	17/006	Angel Springs Ltd	Water supply for drinks machine	£21.60
12/04/2017	17/023	Canal & River Trust	Rent of Crown Wharf - 01/04/17 - 30/04/17	£125.00
12/04/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Electricity charges - Frank Jordan Centre	£434.06
24/04/2017	17/027	Stafford Borough Council	Service Charge - 2016 - 2017	£3,146.79
24/04/2017	17/028	Atlas Contractors Ltd	Cleaning costs - April 2017	£552.28
24/04/2017	17/026	Stafford Borough Council	Balance for cost of variation of Premises Licence	£77.00
28/04/2017	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£79.72
02/05/2017	17/032	K Rushton	Entertainment for Civic Dinner	£165.00
02/05/2017	17/034	City B Group Ltd	Erecting & dismantling of marquees - April 17	£887.00
02/05/2017	17/035	BEA Fire Safety Ltd	Annual Fire Risk Assess- STN	£250.00
02/05/2017	17/035	BEA Fire Safety Ltd	Annual Fire Risk Assess-15 Station Road	£250.00
02/05/2017	17/035	BEA Fire Safety Ltd	Annual Fire Risk Assess-FJC	£250.00
02/05/2017	17/033	Will Lake Sound Systems	Service call to hearing loop at Stone Station	£65.00
02/05/2017	17/036	Local World Ltd	Advertising of Annual Public Meeting 2017	£45.20
02/05/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply Stone Station	£349.75
03/05/2017	17/039	M J Plant	Grounds maintenance - April 2017	£1,178.00
03/05/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Northesk Street Car Park	£105.00
03/05/2017	17/039	M J Plant	Crown Meadow Car Park	£120.00
03/05/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£237.00
03/05/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£405.00
03/05/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Crown Street Car Park	£241.00
03/05/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Stone Station Community Centre	£210.00

03/05/2017	17/039	M J Plant	Crown Wharf Car Park	£80.00
05/05/2017	D/Dbt	Francotyp Postalia	Postage	£200.00
08/05/2017	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£17.22
09/05/2017	17/043	Miss J Allen	Reimbursement for Past Mayoral Gifts & sundries for mtgs	£33.07
09/05/2017	17/041	Npower Ltd	Electricity Charge - Pillar 2 High Street	£15.20
09/05/2017	17/047	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection for Frank Jordan Centre	£106.94
09/05/2017	17/046	DSG Retail Ltd	New printer for Town Clerk's office	£124.99
09/05/2017	17/045	Virgin Media Business	Telephone calls - April 17 - Line rental - May 17	£47.89
09/05/2017	17/042	Sturgess & Moore Ltd	New Mayor's Board	£145.00
09/05/2017	17/040	Npower Ltd	Electricity Charge - Pillar 1 High Street	£10.53
09/05/2017	17/047	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection for Stone Station	£94.94
12/05/2017	17/048	E.ON	Electricity @ Crown Meadow	£11.38
12/05/2017	17/059	Mrs L Davies	Reimbursement for flowers - Civic Dinner	£36.00
12/05/2017	17/058	Active Weed Control Ltd	1st Application of 2017 Japanese Knotweed - N/C Rd Allots	£97.50
12/05/2017	17/054	Mr I Fordham	Deputy Mayoral Allowance 2017 2018	£637.57
12/05/2017	17/053	Mr J Davies	Mayoral Allowance 2017 2018	£2,319.15
12/05/2017	17/052	Canal & River Trust	Rent of Crown Wharf 01 05 17	£125.00
12/05/2017	17/050	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£68.93
12/05/2017	17/049	Simply Petals Florist	Bouquets - outgoing Mayoress & Dep Mayoress	£60.00
15/05/2017	17/061	Stafford Borough Council	Road Closure - Soap Box Derby 2017 - Stone Festival	£100.00
16/05/2017	D/Dbt	Sage software Ltd	Sage package	£1,012.00
22/05/2017	17/067	Canal & River Trust	Rent of Crown Wharf 01 06 17 - 30 06 17	£125.00
22/05/2017	17/066	Severn Trent Water Ltd	Water charges - FJC 01 11 16 - 11 05 17	£218.53
22/05/2017	17/069	British Telecommunications Plc	line rental - fire alarm - FJC 01 05 17 - 31 07 16	£91.90
22/05/2017	17/068	The Stone Gazette Ltd	Advertisement - half page - in Festival program	£315.00
22/05/2017	17/062	Mr G Wright	Internal Audit 2016 2017	£120.00
22/05/2017	17/070	Severn Trent Water Ltd	Water charges - MT Rd Allot 22 11 16 - 10 05 17	£78.96
26/05/2017	17/074	Siemens Financial Services Ltd	Qtly rent of photocopier 21 06 17 - 20 09 17	£150.00
26/05/2017	17/075	Severn Trent Water Ltd	Water charges STN 18 11 16 - 30 04 17	£540.45
26/05/2017	17/073	Stone Community Hub	March & April instalment - grant Min No. GP17 008 refers	£1,000.00
26/05/2017	17/072	Getmapping Plc	Subscription for on line mapping	£468.00
26/05/2017	17/071	MEB Total Ltd	qtly fire alarm test - FJC April 17	£76.64
26/05/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply Stone Station	£230.26
31/05/2017	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£61.07
01/06/2017	17/076	Atlas Contractors Ltd	Cleaning of Frank Jordan Centre - May, 2017	£552.28
01/06/2017	17/077	Hampshire Flag Company	Additional bunting for Town Events	£382.50
01/06/2017	17/078	Mr. B. Hull	Replace faulty emergency light & remove old one	£137.00
01/06/2017	17/079	Mr. B. Hull	Replace faulty distribution board	£768.00
01/06/2017	17/080	Zurich Municipal Insurance	Insurance renewal - 01.06.17 - 31.05.18	£8,278.03
05/06/2017	17/081	M. J. Plant	Grounds maintenance - May, 2017	£1,178.00
05/06/2017	17/082	Microsoft Ireland Operations L	Addition of email address	£7.15
05/06/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£405.00
05/06/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Crown Street Car Park	£241.00
05/06/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Stone Station Community Centre	£210.00
05/06/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£237.00
05/06/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Northesk Street Car Park	£105.00
06/06/2017	17/084	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection - May,17 - Frank Jordan Centre	£107.23
06/06/2017	17/085	Urban Vision Enterprise	Professional Services - Neighbourhood Plan	£500.00
06/06/2017	17/086	ADT Fire and Security PLC	Reset security alarm after system fail - Station	£204.00
06/06/2017	17/083	City B Group Ltd	Erecting & dismantling of marquees - May, 2017	£903.00
06/06/2017	17/084	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection - May,17 - Stone Station	£95.23
06/06/2017	D/Dbt	Francotyp Postalia	Postage	£200.00
06/06/2017	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£17.65
08/06/2017	D/Dbt	BT Business	Broadband payment	£223.20
13/06/2017	17/094	Stafford Borough Council	Road Closure - Music Festival	£50.00
13/06/2017	17/094	Stafford Borough Council	Road Closure - Civic Sunday	£50.00
13/06/2017	17/096	Diane Blakeman	Provision of buffet for Exservicemens Bowls Match	£100.00
13/06/2017	17/093	J. G. Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£50.22
13/06/2017	17/095	M. J. Plant	Sand down & repaint 5 benches - Amphitheatre	£475.00

13/06/2017	17/095	M. J. Plant	Removal of bus shelter on A34	£200.00
13/06/2017	17/091	Lawrence Davis	Annual hosting of website	£120.00
13/06/2017	17/088	Stafford Borough Council	Road Closure-late night shopping - July & August	£100.00
13/06/2017	17/090	Florence Brass Band	Entertainment late night shopping - July&Aug,2017	£300.00
13/06/2017	17/089	Virgin Media Payments Ltd	Telephone Charges-May,17&Line Rental-June,17	£58.61
13/06/2017	17/092	Mr. W. L Trigg	Reimbursement for broadband payment to BT	£202.40
16/06/2017	17/097	J. G. Fenn Ltd	Stationery - Cartridges	£110.34
16/06/2017	17/099	Canal & River Trust	Rent of Crown Wharf - 01.07.17 - 31.07.17	£125.00
21/06/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Stone Station	£115.03
22/06/2017	17/105	Victoria Asset Finance	Qtly rent of franking machine 18 07 17 - 17 10 17	£60.00
22/06/2017	17/101	Ben Owen	Entertainment - Music Festival 8 July 17	£100.00
22/06/2017	17/106	Atlas Contractors Ltd	Cleaning of Frank Jordan - June 2017	£552.28
22/06/2017	17/100	K Sauntry	Entertainment - Music Festival 8 July 17	£400.00
22/06/2017	17/102	Tucano	Entertainment - Music Festival 8 July 17	£400.00
22/06/2017	17/103	Hazzard Promotions	Provision of sound & lighting - Music Festival 8 July	£500.00
22/06/2017	17/104	David Cotterill	Entertainment - Music Festival 8 July 17	£500.00
23/06/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Frank Jordan Centre	£1,087.88
26/06/2017	17/108	Stafford Borough Council	Emptying of doggie bins	£179.72
26/06/2017	D/Dbt	Network Rail	Rent of Stone Station 24 06 17 - 28 09 17	£987.50
29/06/2017	17/109	Staffordshire Playing Fiels As	Subscription 2017 2018	£15.00
30/06/2017	17/112	City B Group Ltd	Erecting & dismantling the marquees June 2017	£706.00
30/06/2017	17/111	Halton Print & Promotional	USA Flag - Stars & Stripes	£12.75
30/06/2017	17/110	J G Fenn Ltd	Stationery	£92.24
30/06/2017	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£64.47

Mr Mark Deaville
Cabinet Member for Commercial
2 Staffordshire Place
Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2DH
Telephone: (01785) 854661
E-mail: mark.deaville@staffordshire.gov.uk
Website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk

To Parish Councils
Via email

My ref: MD-150/CM

Your Ref:

Date: 7 July 2017

Dear Parish Clerk

Staffordshire Subsidised Bus Review Consultation

I wanted to share with you in advance our plans to launch a public consultation on 24 July on four potential options to provide subsidised bus travel in the county in 2018/19.

All bus journeys made in Staffordshire are operated by either private bus companies or by voluntary and community organisations.

Although more than 90 per cent of these trips are made without any subsidy, the County Council currently pays as much as £10 per passenger journey where there are too few people using them or, not enough money paid, to make the service commercially viable.

In February 2016, a decision was made at Full Council to review the budget for subsidised bus travel in order to continue to protect and fund statutory responsibilities, which this year for example will see us need to spend a record £300m on care.

Four options on how the smaller £1.3m bus subsidy budget could be best spent next year have now been developed. These consider a range of factors including; the amount of subsidy, number of passengers, education, employment and health travel and access to other public transport. In brief the options are:

- Option 1: This is the preferred option as it maintains the greatest number of journeys currently subsidised by the County Council – and the lowest subsidy per passenger trip at £1.60. There would be no Dial-a-Ride services
- Option 2: Maintains fewer bus journeys, but maintains the South Staffordshire and Staffordshire Moorlands Connect. These Dial-a-Ride services would be subsidised at £8.20 per passenger trip



- Option 3: Protects even fewer supported local bus services, but keeps all four existing Dial-a-Ride services, except Border Car, at a subsidy of £8.80
- Option 4: Provides a county-wide network of Dial-a-Ride services at an average cost of £10 per passenger journey. No other bus journeys will be subsidised

As well as continuing to subsidise some journeys the County Council remains committed to helping community and voluntary schemes to flourish. As your council is very much at the heart of the community we would be particularly keen to hear from you how you think this may work in your area.

Fuller details of the options and routes for subsidised journeys on local buses and the Dial-a-Ride services will be available when the consultation goes live on 24 July at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview There will be a separate questionnaire for organisations such as town and parish councils.

We look forward to working with you to deliver a final proposal to Cabinet in the autumn and see the changes implemented in April 2018.

Yours sincerely



Mr Mark Deaville
Cabinet Member for Commercial



Have your say

on options for bus journeys subsidised by
Staffordshire County Council



**Making the most of taxpayers' money
- tell us what you think**

You can take part by filling in the online survey at
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview

Or you can:

- Fill in this consultation document and post it to us
- Fill in this consultation document and hand it in to any Staffordshire library

Have your say by Sunday 17th September 2017

Making the most of your money - taxpayer subsidised bus routes

What's happening?

All bus journeys made in Staffordshire are operated by either private bus companies or by voluntary and community organisations.

More than 90 per cent of these journeys are operated without being subsidised with money from taxpayers. So if you use the bus, or know someone who does, there is a good chance it will be one of these.

The rest of the bus journeys are only possible if they are subsidised by the county council and therefore taxpayers. In some cases this can be as much as £10 every time a passenger boards the bus. This is generally because of low passenger numbers and revenue.

In Staffordshire, we have to balance what we can spend funding subsidised transport services, against the support of services for which we have a legal duty to provide, such as adult social care and looking after children in care. Therefore, the decision was made last year to review the amount

we can continue to pay towards bus travel.

This consultation is about how best to spend the budget we have available. The consultation is also about the use of community and voluntary run transport schemes.

In the county there, are already individuals and groups running community and voluntary transport schemes and we are also keen to support communities to develop schemes which are tailored to meet local needs.

As part of the consultation, we would like to know what schemes are running in your area and whether you are already involved in providing transport, or would be interested in running a new scheme.

This consultation only affects public bus and Dial-A-Ride journeys which are subsidised by taxpayers and not those run by operators on a fully commercial basis.

Why are we consulting?

As a county council, we have a legal responsibility and duty to fund certain services such as adult social care, support for people with learning disabilities and looking after the children in our care.

In 2017-18, the county council will spend £300m on care, more than we have ever spent before.

By 2020/21 our government grant will fall to zero, so critical county council services will only be funded by local council tax and business rates.

So it is more important than ever that we make the best use of taxpayers' money to ensure we can continue to fund statutory services.

While some councils have stopped subsidising bus travel altogether, we are not doing that.

Although there will be a smaller bus subsidy "pot" available, £1.3 million will still be spent subsidising journeys from April 2018.

We are holding this consultation to let you know how the current network may change and we would welcome your views on subsidised travel and how the budget should be spent.

With this in mind, we have developed four potential options which are possible with the budget available. At this stage, Option 1 is our preferred option as it allows the greatest number of journeys to be made and has the lowest average subsidy per passenger journey.

The facts:

- More than 90 per cent of passenger journeys in Staffordshire are made on buses operated without funding from Staffordshire County Council
- A review showed some bus journeys are being subsidised by up to £10 every time a passenger steps on board, which is simply not sustainable
- Some councils have already stopped subsidising bus services – we are not doing this. Around £1.3m will still be spent helping people travel around the county from April 2018
- In order to protect statutory services, we will have less money to subsidise bus journeys next year

We want to increase work with local towns, parishes and communities interested in running community and voluntary transport schemes to complement commercial public transport. This is your chance to have your say on how this £1.3m bus service subsidy pot can be best spent and also share your views on subsidised travel.

Some other transport options

As well as the buses provided by private operators and voluntary and community organisations, there are a number of local initiatives managed by residents to meet local needs.

The county council can offer advice in setting up a scheme and signposting groups to possible sources of funding. These include:

Voluntary Car Schemes

These schemes are usually run by local people and organisations. The majority of drivers are volunteers providing transport in their own cars for a small contribution towards the running costs.

Community Transport Schemes

These are local non-profit schemes that operate cars, minibuses and adapted vehicles. Passengers register beforehand for journeys including medical appointments, shopping trips, day centre attendance and luncheon clubs. These schemes are supported by a combination of paid and voluntary staff and they have fare schemes depending upon the type of journey and distance.

Car Sharing

Employees can sign up for Car Share for home to work journeys at www.share-a-lift.co.uk. This reduces travel to work costs and helps the environment.

Making the most of your money – the options we would like your views on

This consultation is not about the overall budget, but what services we can provide for the budget available.

When we developed the options we looked at factors including:

- The actual cost of the subsidy per passenger journey to taxpayers
- The numbers of passengers and locations
- Alternative transport options
- The need to prioritise employment, education and health journeys where possible

Although no final decision has been made, at this stage Option 1 is our preferred option because it protects the greatest number of current journeys for the lowest average subsidy.

Option 1

Description

This option is based on the lowest subsidy per passenger journey and maintaining priority routes.

There would be no Dial-A-Ride services.

Staffordshire County Council would continue to subsidise bus journeys on 18 routes, some of which also support eligible children with home to school travel.

What would this mean?

- More than 815,000 bus journeys would continue to be subsidised by the county council. Based on passenger numbers this would have the least impact on the number of people currently using the services
- The average subsidy per passenger journey would be £1.60
- Where possible this prioritises employment, health and education bus journeys
- No Dial-A-Ride services would be funded by the county council
- Some areas would have no access to public transport
- 560,000 current journeys would no longer be subsidised by the county council

Option 2

Description

This option is based on a slightly higher subsidy than Option 1 per passenger journey and maintaining some priority routes.

There would be two Dial-A-Ride services maintained - Staffordshire Moorlands Connect and South Staffordshire Connect.

Staffordshire County Council would continue to subsidise bus journeys on 10 routes, some of which also support eligible children with home to school travel.

What would this mean?

- Around 680,000 bus journeys would continue to be subsidised by the county council
- The average subsidy per passenger journey would be £1.80. Dial-A-Ride services would be subsidised by an average of £8.20 per passenger journey
- Where possible this continues to support some employment, health and education bus journeys
- The two Dial-A-Ride services operating in Staffordshire Moorlands and South Staffordshire would be maintained
- Fares for these Dial-A-Ride services would be applied
- Some areas would have no access to public transport
- 695,000 current journeys would no longer be subsidised by the county council

Option 3

Description

This option is based on a slightly higher subsidy than Option 1 per passenger journey and maintaining fewer priority routes.

There would be four Dial-A-Ride services maintained - Staffordshire Moorlands Connect, South Staffordshire Connect, Needwood Forest Connect and Lichfield & Rugeley Village Connect.

Staffordshire County Council would continue to subsidise bus journeys on seven routes, some of which also support eligible children with home to school travel.

What would this mean?

- Around 550,000 bus journeys would continue to be subsidised by the county council
- Each bus journey would be subsidised by an average of £1.80 per passenger journey. Dial-A-Ride services would be subsidised by an average of £8.80 per passenger journey
- Where possible this continues to support some employment, health and education bus journeys
- The four Dial-A-Ride services, Staffordshire Moorlands Connect, South Staffordshire Connect, Needwood Forest Connect and Lichfield & Rugeley Village Connect would be maintained.
- The Border Car Dial-A-Ride service would no longer run
- Fares for these Dial-A-Ride services would be applied
- More remote areas of the county may have access to public transport
- 870,000 current journeys would no longer be subsidised by the county council

Option 4

Description

Under this option, Staffordshire County Council would subsidise Dial-A-Ride services only.

The existing Dial-A-Ride services – Staffordshire Moorlands Connect, South Staffordshire Connect, Needwood Forest Connect, Lichfield & Rugeley Village Connect and the Border Car would be maintained.

An additional seven new Dial-A-Ride services would be introduced to provide countywide coverage in areas where there may be limited public transport provided commercially.

There would be no other subsidised local bus services. Home to school travel for eligible children would still be provided.

What would this mean?

- It is anticipated that around 130,000 existing and new Dial-A-Ride journeys would be subsidised by the county council, but there would be no subsidised local bus journeys. This would have the biggest impact on existing bus journeys for Staffordshire residents
- Each Dial-A-Ride journey would be subsidised by an average of £10 per passenger journey.
- To manage demand these services would be limited to essential journeys only, prioritising health travel, such as trips to GPs
- All five existing Dial-A-Ride services; Staffordshire Moorlands Connect, South Staffordshire Connect, Needwood Forest Connect, Lichfield & Rugeley Village Connect and Border Car would be maintained
- Fares for all Dial-A-Ride services would be applied
- Some residents in more remote areas of the county may have improved access to travel
- Around 1.25 million current bus journeys would no longer be subsidised by the county council. This would have the biggest impact on current travel options for Staffordshire residents

Below is a full list of how each subsidised bus route and Dial-A-Ride service would be affected under the different options. You can find out more at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview

How subsidised journeys would be affected

X = No longer subsidised ✓ = Continue to be subsidised

Service No.	Operator	Route Description	Days of Operation	Contracted Journeys	Potential Result under Option...			
					1	2	3	4
	ASHBOURNE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT	MOORLANDS CONNECT	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys Mon-Fri 07:00 - 18:00hrs; Sat 08:00 - 18:00hrs	x	✓	✓	✓
	ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT GROUP	SOUTH STAFFS CONNECT	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys (Northern Section) Mon-Fri 08:00 - 18:00hrs; Sat 10:00 - 16:00hrs	x	✓	✓	✓
	COMMUNITY LINK STAFFORD & DIST	Coppenhall - Ten Butts - Stafford	Tu excl Bank Hols	1 return journey 10:00 Hyde Lea, 13:00 Gaol Square	x	x	x	x
	COMMUNITY LINK STAFFORD & DIST	Lodgefield Park - Stafford	Tu, Th excl Bank Hols	1 return journey 10:35 Lodgfield Park, 13:15 Gaol Square	x	x	x	x
	COMMUNITY TRANSPORT WEST MIDLANDS	SOUTH STAFFS CONNECT	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys (Southern Section) Mon-Fri 08:00 - 18:00hrs; Sat 10:00 - 16:00hrs	x	✓	✓	✓
	MOBILITY LINK	LICHFIELD & RUGELEY CONNECT	Mon-Fri excl Bank Hols	All journeys 09:30 - 15:00hrs	x	x	✓	✓
	MOBILITY LINK	NEEDWOOD FOREST CONNECT	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys 08:00 - 18:00hrs	x	x	✓	✓
	STAFFORDSHIRE BORDER TRAVEL	BORDER CAR	Mon-Fri excl Bank Hols	All journeys 07:00 - 18:00hrs	x	x	x	✓
2E	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Cannock - Walsall	Mon-Sat Eves excl Bank Hols	20:25 From Cannock Bus Stn; 21:05 From Walsall Bus Stn	x	x	x	x
2E	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Cannock - Walsall	Sun & Bank Hols Eves	From Hednesford 18:10 onwards; From Walsall 19:10 onwards	x	x	x	x
5	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Tamworth - Amington	Sun & Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
6A	FIRST POTTERIES LTD	Longton - Blythe Bridge	Sun & Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
8	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Parkside - Stafford - Moss Pit	Mon-Sat Eves excl Bank Hols	Evening Journeys from 20:26	x	x	x	x
9	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Stafford - Highfields	Mon-Sat Eves excl Bank Hols	Evening Journeys from 19:50	x	x	x	x
10	MIDLAND CLASSIC LIMITED	Burton - Rough Hay	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	5 return journeys 08:10, 09:30, 11:45, 13:45, 16:40	✓	x	x	x
10	TRAVEL WEST MIDLANDS	Burntwood - Brownhills	Mon-Sat Eves excl Bank Hols; Sun & Bank Hols	Mon-Sat Hourly from 19:00 to 23:00hrs from Ogle Hay to Burntwood; Sundays hourly from 11:00 to 23:00hrs from Ogle Hay to Burntwood	x	x	x	x
10A	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Perton - Pattingham	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	Extension beyond Perton to Pattingham 2 hrly 07:00-18:00hrs	✓	✓	x	x
10B	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Perton - Codsall	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	Extension beyond Perton to Codsall 2 hrly 09:00-14:00hrs	✓	✓	x	x
10S	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Perton - Codsall	School days only	Perton to Codsall High School journeys	✓	✓	x	x

X = No longer subsidised ✓ = Continue to be subsidised

Service No.	Operator	Route Description	Days of Operation	Contracted Journeys	Potential Result under Option...			
					1	2	3	4
11	SELECT BUSES	Stafford - Coton Fields	Mon-Fri excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	x	x	x
12	D & G BUS LTD	Meir Heath- Fulford- Blythe Bridge-Longton- Barlaston-Stone- Eccleshall-Newport	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
13	D & G BUS LTD	Stone - Norton Bridge - Seighford - Stafford	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
13A	D & G BUS LTD	Stone - Yarnfield - Swynnerton - Eccleshall - Norton Bridge - Stafford	Sat & Schooldays only excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
14	D & G BUS LTD	Barlaston - Stone - Eccleshall - Stafford	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
14A	D & G BUS LTD	Barlaston - Stone - Eccleshall	Mon-Fri excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
14B	D & G BUS LTD	Barlaston - Stone - Eccleshall - Norton Bridge - Stafford -	Bank Holidays Only	All journeys	x	x	x	x
15	D & G BUS LTD	Stafford -Hopton - Hilderstone - Stone	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
15	D & G BUS LTD	Newport - Cranberry - Cotes Heath - Stafford	Mon, W, Fri excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
15	D & G BUS LTD	Newport - Market Drayton - Croxton - Stafford	Tu, Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
15	D & G BUS LTD	Newport - Norbury Junction - Bishops Offley - Stafford	Thu excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
16	COASTAL LINER LTD	Essington - Bloxwich	Tu & Fri excl Bank Hols	1 return journey 09:25 Essington, 11:15 Bloxwich	x	x	x	x
16	D & G BUS LTD	Leek - Cheddleton - Hanley - Stoke Stn - Stoke	Mon-Fri excl Bank Hols	3 early morning journeys 06:15 & 07:30 from Leek, 07:00 from Hanley	x	x	x	x
16	D & G BUS LTD	Leek - Cheddleton - Hanley - Stoke Stn - Stoke	Mon-Sat Eves excl Bank Hols	20:15, 21:45, 23:15 from Leek; 21:00, 22:30 from Hanley	x	x	x	x
16	D & G BUS LTD	Hanley - Leek - Buxton	Sun & Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
18	MIDLAND CLASSIC LIMITED	Burton - Dalebrook	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	x	x	x
18	TAXICO	Hanley - Endon - Leek	Mon-Sat Eves excl Bank Hols	21:15, 22:15, 23:15 from Hanley, 20:39 from Haregate, 21:45, 22:45 from Leek, 23:49 Haregate to Leek	x	x	x	x
21	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Cannock - Longford/Shoal Hill	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
21E	DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	Burton - Swadlincote	Mon-Sat Eves, Sun & Bank Hols	Recharge for the Staffs section of a Derbyshire contract	x	x	x	x

X = No longer subsidised ✓ = Continue to be subsidised

Service No.	Operator	Route Description	Days of Operation	Contracted Journeys	Potential Result under Option...			
					1	2	3	4
30	D & G BUS LTD	Leek - Ipstones - Cheadle - Tean	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
33/35	D & G BUS LTD	Newcastle - Chesterton	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	3 return journeys 09:28, 10:58 & 12:58	✓	x	x	x
35B	CENTRAL BUSES (CEN)	Lichfield - Walsall	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	x	x	x
44	STOKE CITY COUNCIL (SCRAGGS)	Stanley - Bagnall - Abbey Hulton - Hanley	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	Part funded by Stoke City Council - all journeys serving Stanley and Bagnall	x	x	x	x
50	STOKE CITY COUNCIL (SCRAGGS)	Caverswall - Hanley	Mon-Fri excl Bank Hols	Part funded by Stoke City Council all journeys	x	x	x	x
61	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Cannock - Heath Hayes	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys: Hawks Green Tesco to Wimblebury, Lamb & Flag section only	✓	x	x	x
62	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Cannock - Hazelslade - Burntwood - Lichfield	Sun & Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
67	SELECT BUSES	Cannock - Featherstone - Brinsford - Wolverhampton	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
70	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Cannock - Wolverhampton	Sun & Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
71/A	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Cannock - Wolverhampton	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	x	x	x
72A	FIRST POTTERIES LTD	Newcastle - Clayton Village	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	5 return journeys 10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 13:15 & 14:15	x	x	x	x
73	SELECT BUSES	Stafford - Walton-on-the-Hill	Mon-Fri excl Bank Hols	2 return journeys: 10:05 & 14:05 from Stafford	✓	x	x	x
73	D & G BUS LTD	Audley - Newcastle	Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys Audley - Park Site section only	x	x	x	x
74	D & G BUS LTD	Newcastle - Cross Heath - Audley	Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys Park Site - Audley section only	x	x	x	x
74	D & G BUS LTD	Newcastle - Audley	Mon-Fri Eves excl Bank Hols	Mon-Fri: 18:30 from Audley; 18:45 from Newcastle	x	x	x	x
74	D & G BUS LTD	Newcastle - Audley	Sun & Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
76A	ARRIVA MIDLANDS NORTH	Stafford - Penkridge - Wolverhampton	Sun & Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
80	D & G BUS LTD	Kidsgrove Town Service	Mon-Fri excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
82	SOLUS	Tamworth - Clifton Campville	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
85	D & G BUS LTD	Newcastle - Keele - Madeley - Crewe	Mon-Sat Eves	Mon-Sat 18:10 to 23:05hrs Newcastle to Crewe, 18:15 to 22:15hrs from Crewe	x	x	x	x
85	D & G BUS LTD	Newcastle - Keele - Madeley - Crewe	Sun & Bank Hols	All journeys.	x	x	x	x

X = No longer subsidised ✓ = Continue to be subsidised

Service No.	Operator	Route Description	Days of Operation	Contracted Journeys	Potential Result under Option...			
					1	2	3	4
93	D & G BUS LTD	Biddulph - Brown Edge - Leek	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
108	TAXICO	Leek - Ashbourne	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
109	TAXICO	Leek - Macclesfield	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
116	D & G BUS LTD	Cheddleton - Leek	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
123	BENNETTS TRAVEL (CRANBERRY) LTD	Cheadle Town Service	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	x	x	x
182	G E SCRAGG & SONS	Blythe Bridge - Cheadle Schools	Mon-Fri Sch days	1 return journey to Cheadle schools	x	x	x	x
401	MIDLAND CLASSIC LIMITED	Uttoxeter - Doveridge - Tutbury - Beam Hill - Burton	Mon-Sat Eves excl Bank Hols	All journeys from 18:35 from Burton and 18:45 from Uttoxeter	x	x	x	x
401	MIDLAND CLASSIC LIMITED	Uttoxeter - Doveridge - Tutbury - Beam Hill - Burton	Sun & Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
402	MIDLAND CLASSIC LIMITED	Uttoxeter - Draycott - Tutbury - Beam Hill - Burton	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
402A	MIDLAND CLASSIC LIMITED	Uttoxeter - Draycott - Abbots Bromley - Beam Hill - Burton	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
403	MIDLAND CLASSIC LIMITED	Uttoxeter - Abbots Bromley - Beam Hill - Burton	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
411	MOBILITY LINK	Uttoxeter - Leigh Circular	Wed excl Bank Hols	One return journey 08:45 Uttoxeter-Uttoxeter Tesco via villages; 12:30 Uttoxeter Tesco-Uttoxeter via villages	✓	x	x	x
429	STANTON'S OF STOKE	Milehouse - Silverdale - Newcastle Academy	Schoolday only	1 return journey	x	x	x	x
442	DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	Buxton - Ashbourne	Mon-Sat	Recharge for the Staffs section of a Derbyshire contract all journeys	x	x	x	x
455	BENNETTS TRAVEL (CRANBERRY) LTD	Blythe Bridge High School	Mon-Fri Sch days	One return journey to Blythe Bridge High School	✓	✓	✓	x
811	MIDLAND CLASSIC LIMITED	Burton - Barton - Alrewas - Fradley - Lichfield	Mon-Sat Eves excl Bank Hols	19:00 from Burton and 20:00 from Lichfield	x	x	x	x
811	MIDLAND CLASSIC LIMITED	Burton - Barton - Yoxall - Alrewas - Fradley - Lichfield	Sun & Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
812	MIDLAND CLASSIC LIMITED	Burton - Barton - Yoxall - Alrewas - Fradley - Lichfield	Mon-Sat Eves excl Bank Hols	21:05 from Burton and 22:15 from Lichfield	x	x	x	x
841	D & G BUS LTD	Uttoxeter - Hixon - Great Haywood - Stafford	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x

X = No longer subsidised ✓ = Continue to be subsidised

Service No.	Operator	Route Description	Days of Operation	Contracted Journeys	Potential Result under Option...			
					1	2	3	4
841A	D & G BUS LTD	Uttoxeter - Hixon - Great Haywood - Stafford	Schooldays only	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
842	D & G BUS LTD	Stafford - Weston - Hixon - Great Haywood - Rugeley	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
842A	D & G BUS LTD	Stafford - Weston - Hixon - Great Haywood - Rugeley	Schooldays only	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
877	SELECT BUSES	Stafford - Church Eaton - Wheaton Aston - Brewood	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
878	SELECT BUSES	Stafford - Penkridge - Wheaton Aston - Brewood	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	✓	✓	✓	x
S1	D & G BUS LTD	Stone – Stonefield (circular)	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
S2	D & G BUS LTD	Stone – Oulton (circular)	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
S3	D & G BUS LTD	Stone – Aston Lodge (circular)	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
S4	D & G BUS LTD	Stone – Cherryfields (circular)	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
S5	D & G BUS LTD	Stone - Walton (circular)	Mon-Sat excl Bank Hols	All journeys	x	x	x	x
S6	D & G BUS LTD	Cherryfields - Aston Lodge - Stone Schools	Schooldays only	All journeys	x	x	x	x
T3	SHIRE TRAVEL	T3 Thornhill Road - Cannock	Tu, F excl Bank Hols	09:30 1 return journey	✓	x	x	x
T5	SHIRE TRAVEL	T5 Bradbury Lane - Cannock	Tu, F excl Bank Hols	10:30 1 return journey, 12:40 single journey	✓	x	x	x
V1	DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	Derby - Mickleover - Tutbury - Burton	Sun & Bank Hols	Recharge for the Staffs section of a Derbyshire contract	x	x	x	x
V3	DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	Derby - Littleover - Burton	Sun & Bank Hols	Recharge for the Staffs section of a Derbyshire contract	x	x	x	x

Answers to questions you may have

What is a subsidised network?

Historically, we have subsidised some services where there are not enough passengers using them or income made to cover the running costs – this is the subsidised network. This county council subsidy can cover an entire service, additional journeys or additional stops.

Many councils have reduced, and some have even stopped, subsidising public transport. Around £1.3m will still be spent subsidising journeys in Staffordshire.

Does the council have a statutory duty to subsidise transport?

The county council has a statutory duty to consider the social need to provide a level of subsidised journeys and how much can be budgeted to do this. In 2018/19 £1.3m will be spent subsidising travel.

Why are you making these changes?

We are looking at delivering the best option we can for your money and have put together four potential options of how the £1.3m could be spent. At this stage Option 1 is our preferred option as most current journeys will be subsidised at the lowest average cost per journey to taxpayers.

How have you come up with these four options?

The options were developed after looking at those routes that support people making employment, education and health journeys, how much the subsidy is, how many people use a given service and the areas they serve.

The range of options consider whether we aim to protect as many current bus journeys but at a lower average cost, through to only subsidising Dial-A-Ride services at a higher cost per passenger journey.

What subsidised routes are you consulting on?

All bus journeys in Staffordshire are made on buses run commercially by private companies or voluntary and community transport schemes. The four options only look at local bus journeys made on buses which are currently subsidised by the county council and also the Dial-A-Ride services.

Is my bus journey going to be affected?

Full details of the options and the services likely to be affected under each option are available at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview

Although the county council may no longer subsidise a journey a private bus operator may still consider running it if they could make it commercially viable

What happens if you stop subsidising my bus, will it stop?

We are consulting on four options, all of which will see a number of journeys likely to be limited or, in some cases, stopped.

The vast majority of bus services (more than 90%) are provided by private bus companies without council subsidy and we will continue working with them to explore if there is any possibility of continuing the services in some areas.

I live in a remote area and I am worried I will be left without any public transport.

The options we are looking at include ones where the current Dial-A-Ride services will be retained in part or in full.

We are also working with the community and voluntary sector to support them to explore the possibility of setting up community run services, explore external sources of funding and help to promote existing community based transport initiatives.

Will this affect school transport or social care transport?

This consultation is only about the public bus journeys run by operators and the Dial-A-Ride services we subsidise. No other transport is affected.

My child is entitled to free home to school transport, will it affect them?

The eligibility for free home to school transport is not affected. If an eligible pupil currently uses public buses which may be affected by this review, alternative transport such as school buses will be arranged.

How does this compare with support provided by other councils?

A number of councils have already reduced the amount they spend on subsidising travel and some have decided to stop subsidising travel completely. In Staffordshire £1.3m will still be spent on funding journeys.

Is this a done deal?

No. Whilst the amount of money we can spend on subsidising bus journeys is not part of the consultation, your feedback will be incorporated into the final recommendation which will be presented to the county council's Cabinet in autumn 2017.

How will the consultation work?

The consultation will run for eight weeks. It will begin on Monday, 24th July and will end at midnight on Sunday, 17th September.

You can get copies of the questionnaire at:

- www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview
- All static libraries
- On request by emailing busreview@staffordshire.gov.uk
- By telephoning our contact centre on 0300 111 8000

What happens in the autumn of 2017?

Your feedback will help us to decide on the best option that will be presented to the county council's Cabinet in autumn 2017. This is when the final decision on which option to implement will be made.

Stage 1

Consultation starts on the 24th July

Stage 2

Consultation ends on the 17th September

Stage 3

Feedback is reviewed and a proposal is put together for the best option

Stage 4

The county council's Cabinet reviews the proposal and makes the final decision

Stage 5

Changes to journeys are implemented in the spring of 2018

Future provision of subsidised bus services in Staffordshire - Individual's Response Form

Please have your say on options to review bus journeys subsidised by Staffordshire County Council. Please read the supporting information provided before completing this survey. **Please return your views by 17th September 2017**

If you are responding on behalf of members of the public that you represent, or are an organisation, school, community or voluntary group, you should not use this form. Please fill in the organisation response form which is available online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview.

Q1 What is your home postcode? (This will help with our analysis and will not be used to identify your house.)

Q2 In which capacity are you responding to this consultation? (Please select all that apply.)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> As a resident of Staffordshire | <input type="checkbox"/> As a non bus user in Staffordshire | <input type="checkbox"/> As someone who works for a bus company in Staffordshire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> As a bus user in Staffordshire | <input type="checkbox"/> As a member of staff at Staffordshire County Council | <input type="checkbox"/> In another capacity (please state) |

Other (please state)

Your Bus Usage in Staffordshire

Q3 How often do you use buses in Staffordshire for each of the following reasons?

	At least five days a week	2 to 3 times a week	At least once a week	At least once a month or more	A few times a year	Never
To get to work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To get to education/training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To go shopping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To access services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To get to a doctors or medical appointment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To visit friends/family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For leisure/social purposes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q4 What times of the day do you use bus services for each of the following?

	Before 9am	Between 9am and 4pm	Between 4pm and 7pm	After 7pm	N/A
To get to work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To get to education/training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To go shopping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To access services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To get to a doctors or medical appointment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To visit friends/family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For leisure/social purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5 Which buses do you regularly travel on?
Please write in the bus service provider/company and bus service number of your **MAIN** bus service below

Main bus service: Bus service provider/company:
Bus service number:

Q6 If there are other buses that you regularly travel on, please write in the bus service provider/company and bus service number below

Bus service 2: Bus service provider/company:
Bus service number:
Bus service 3: Bus service provider/company:
Bus service number:

Q7 Do you... (please select the relevant box)

- Hold a concessionary pass for free travel e.g. older persons or disabled persons bus pass
 Use a Your Staffordshire Card
 Use an operator pass or season ticket
 Pay full fare

Q8 How often, if at all, do you travel on Dial-A-Ride?

- At least once a week
 At least once a fortnight
 At least once a month
 Less often
 Never

Q9 If you travel on Dial-A-Ride, would you be prepared to pay between £8-£10 per single journey for the travel to continue?

- Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree
 N/A - I don't use the service

Proposed Options

Staffordshire County Council has developed four proposed options on how the £1.3 million budget, which will be available to help people travel around the county from April 2018, can best be spent. Please read the 'have your say' document for more information about the options. Please tell us how the proposed options may affect you.

Option 1: Revised Local Subsidised Bus Services (No Dial-A-Ride Services):

This option seeks to maintain priority routes and support some services for employment, education and health. There would be no Dial-A-Ride services. This is the county council's preferred option because it retains the greatest number of journeys

Q10 How far do you agree or disagree with this option?

- Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

Q11 Please tell us how travel under this option would affect you and/or your family?

- It wouldn't have an affect on me or my family as we rarely, if ever, use the service
 I/my family might be affected but could probably make alternative arrangements
 I/my family would be affected by this quite a lot
 This would have a big effect on me/my family

Q12 Thinking about the main journey that you make, how will you/your family be affected by this option?

Option 2: Revised Local Subsidised Bus Services with Two Dial-A-Ride Services

This option seeks to maintain priority routes and support some services for employment, education and health. There would be two Dial-A-Ride services maintained - Staffordshire Moorlands Connect and South Staffordshire Connect.

Q13 How far do you agree or disagree with this option?

- Strongly agree Disagree
 Agree Strongly disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree

Q14 Please tell us how travel under this option would affect you and/or your family?

- It wouldn't have an affect on me or my family as we rarely, if ever, use the service
 I/my family might be affected but could probably make alternative arrangements
 I/my family would be affected by this quite a lot
 This would have a big effect on me/my family

Q15 Thinking about the main journey that you make, how will you/your family be affected by this option?

Option 3: Revised Local Subsidised Bus Services with Four Dial-A-Ride Services Retained

Option 3 maintains four Dial-A-Ride services - Staffordshire Moorlands Connect, South Staffordshire Connect, Needwood Forest Connect and Lichfield and Rugeley Village Connect. This option also maintains some subsidised local bus services. There will be no Border Car service under this option.

Q16 How far do you agree or disagree with this option?

- Strongly agree Disagree
 Agree Strongly disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree

Q17 Please tell us how travel under this option would affect you and/or your family?

- It wouldn't have an affect on me or my family as we rarely, if ever, use the service
 I/my family might be affected but could probably make alternative arrangements
 I/my family would be affected by this quite a lot
 This would have a big effect on me/my family

Q18 Thinking about the main journey that you make, how will you/your family be affected by this option?

Option 4: County-wide Dial-A-Ride Services (No Local Subsidised Bus Services)

Under this option, Staffordshire County Council would subsidise Dial-A-Ride services only. The existing Dial-A-Ride services; Staffordshire Moorlands Connect, South Staffordshire Connect, Needwood Forest Connect, Lichfield and Rugeley Village Connect and the Border Car would be maintained. An additional seven new Dial-A-Ride services would also be introduced. There would be no local council subsidised bus services.

Q19 How far do you agree or disagree with this option?

- Strongly agree Disagree
 Agree Strongly disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree

Q20 Please tell us how travel under this option would affect you and/or your family?

- It wouldn't have an affect on me or my family as we rarely, if ever, use the service
 I/my family might be affected but could probably make alternative arrangements
 I/my family would be affected by this quite a lot
 This would have a big effect on me/my family

Q21 Thinking about the main journey that you make, how will you/your family be affected by this option?

Making Alternative Arrangements

Q22 If the bus(es) that you currently use, at the time(s) that you use them, were not available, how would you travel instead?

- I would use a community or voluntary transport scheme e.g. dial-a-ride I would travel at a different time/on a different day
 I would use another type of transport e.g. cycle, taxi, car It would stop me using any public transport
 I would use a car sharing scheme I would not be able to travel
 Other

Other (please specify)

Individual, Organisational or Community and Voluntary Support in Maintaining Services

There are a number of local community and voluntary transport schemes running across the county. We want to understand if organisations, individuals and community or voluntary groups are aware of and/or are interested in being involved in supporting or running initiatives in the local area.

This could include paying for services in villages to help fund extra journeys. It could also include offering lifts to neighbours in need, participating in employee car sharing schemes, sharing taxis or running a local minibus scheme.

Q23 Have you heard of or used a local community or voluntary transport scheme?

- Have heard of them but never used them
- Have used them
- Have never heard of them

Q24 If you have used a local community or voluntary transport scheme, please write in which one(s) you have used

Q25 What is your overall experience of using local community or voluntary transport schemes?

- I would recommend them
- They are okay but no substitute for an ordinary bus service
- I would not recommend them

Q26 To what extent might you want to be involved in running or supporting a local community or voluntary transport scheme in your local area?

- A great deal
- To some extent
- Not at all

Q27 What type of involvement would you want to have?

- To manage a scheme
- To support with the day to day running of a scheme
- To be a volunteer driver
- To provide a vehicle
- To provide financial support
- Other

Other (please specify)

Q28 If you are interested in running or supporting a local community or voluntary transport scheme, what information or support would you/your organisation or group need from Staffordshire County Council?

- More information on the proposed options
- Information on the types of community or voluntary transport schemes available
- Information on what's involved in setting up and running a community or voluntary transport scheme e.g. identifying need, securing funding, writing a business plan, raising awareness of the scheme etc.)
- Support with implementing a community or voluntary transport scheme
- Other

Other (please specify)

Q29 If you are interested in running or supporting a local community or voluntary transport scheme, please include your contact details below

Your name:

Your email:

Your postal address:

Suggestions/ideas

Q30 If you have any other suggestions/ideas that could help contribute towards the savings that need to be made, please tell us about these below. Please continue on a separate sheet if you need to.

About you

Giving the following information is optional, but it will help the County Council to use the information you have provided more effectively.

Any personal information which you choose to share will only be used for research purposes by Staffordshire County Council. They will not be used for any other purposes and will not be passed onto any other organisations. Your information will be treated in confidence in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Q31 Are you...?

- Male Female

Q32 How old are you?

- Under 18 35-44 65-74
 18-24 45-54 75+
 25-34 55-64

Q33 Do you have a long term disability or illness which affects your day to day activities?

- Yes No

Q34 Is your mobility impaired in any way?

- Yes due to a disability Yes due to age No

Q35 Do you have a learning disability?

- Yes No

Q36 Would you describe yourself as...?

- White (British, Irish, Other) Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group Black/African/Caribbean/ Black British
 Asian/Asian British Other ethnic group

Q37 Do you have regular access to a car?

- Yes No

When you've filled in your questionnaire, please cut it out and send it back to the address on the back page of this document. Thank you for taking the time to share your views.



Your ways to have your say

- Please consider helping us to save money by filling in this survey online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview by Sunday 17th September 2017.
- Please return the completed paper survey by Sunday 17th September 2017 to:
Bus Review, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Place 2, Tipping Street, Stafford,
Staffordshire, ST16 2LH.
- You can also hand in your survey to a member of staff in your library.

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, audio tape/disc, British Sign Language or any other language, please ring 0300 111 8000

Future provision of subsidised bus services in Staffordshire - Organisation Group Response Form

Please have your say on options to review bus journeys subsidised by Staffordshire County Council. Please complete this response form if you are responding on behalf of members of the public that you represent, an organisation, school establishment, community or voluntary group.

It is important for the county council to ensure a good representation of views from across Staffordshire, as such we do ask for a range of questions in relation to your group, organisation and people you represent. Please be assured that the information you do choose to share will be treated confidentially and will only be used to help the county council make decisions in relation to this consultation. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views. **Please return your views by 17th September 2017.**

Q1 Please provide details about your group or organisation

Organisation/group name:

Your name:

Your job role:

Organisation/group contact address (including postcode)

Organisation/group email address

Q2 If we needed to find out more about the comments you have made would you be happy for us to contact you? If so, please select the box and ensure you have provided your contact details above.

Q3 Are the members of the group, organisation or people you represent, primarily... (Please select all that apply)

Older people

Young people

Families

Members of the public

People with learning disabilities

Members of a voluntary/community group

People with physical disabilities

Other (please specify)

Other (please specify)

Q4 Which geographical areas does the group, organisation or people you represent cover? (Please select all that apply)

Cannock Chase

Newcastle-under-Lyme

Stafford

Stoke-on-Trent

East Staffordshire

South Staffordshire

Staffordshire Moorlands

An area outside of Staffordshire

Lichfield

Tamworth

Proposed options

Staffordshire County Council has developed four proposed options on how the £1.3 million budget, which will be available to help people travel around the county from April 2018, can best be spent. Please read the 'have your say' document for more information about the options. Please tell us how the proposed options may affect you and the communities you represent.

Option 1: Revised Local Subsidised Bus Services (No Dial-A-Ride Services):

This option seeks to maintain priority routes and support some services for employment, education and health. There would be no Dial-A-Ride services. This is the county council's preferred option because it retains the greatest number of journeys

Q5 How far do you agree or disagree with this option?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly agree | <input type="radio"/> Disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Agree | <input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree | |

Q6 Please tell us how travel under this option would affect the people you, your group or organisation represent?

- It wouldn't affect the people I, my group or organisation represent as they rarely, if ever, use the service
- The people I, my group or organisation represent might be affected but they could probably make alternative arrangements
- This would have a big effect on the people I, my group or organisation represent

Q7 How will the people you, your group or organisation represent be affected by this option?

Option 2: Revised Local Subsidised Bus Services with two Dial-A-Ride Services

This option seeks to maintain priority routes and support some services for employment, education and health. There would be two Dial-A-Ride services maintained - Staffordshire Moorlands Connect and South Staffordshire Connect.

Q8 How far do you agree or disagree with this option?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly agree | <input type="radio"/> Disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Agree | <input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree | |

Q9 Please tell us how travel under this option would affect the people you, your group or organisation represent?

- It wouldn't affect the people I, my group or organisation represent as they rarely, if ever, use the service
- The people I, my group or organisation represent might be affected but they could probably make alternative arrangements
- This would have a big effect on the people I, my group or organisation represent

Q10 How will the people you, your group or organisation represent be affected by this option?

Option 3: Revised Local Subsidised Bus Services with Four Dial-A-Ride Services Retained

Option 3 maintains four Dial-A-Ride services - Staffordshire Moorlands Connect, South Staffordshire Connect, Needwood Forest Connect and Lichfield and Rugeley Village Connect. This option also maintains some subsidised local bus services. There will be no Border Car service under this option.

Q11 How far do you agree or disagree with this option?

- Strongly agree Disagree
 Agree Strongly disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree

Q12 Please tell us how travel under this option would affect the people you, your group or organisation represent?

- It wouldn't affect the people I, my group or organisation represent as they rarely, if ever, use the service
 The people I, my group or organisation represent might be affected but they could probably make alternative arrangements
 This would have a big effect on the people I, my group or organisation represent

Q13 How will the people you, your group or organisation represent be affected by this option?

Option 4: County-wide Dial-A-Ride Services (No Local Subsidised Bus Services)

Under this option, Staffordshire County Council would subsidise Dial-A-Ride services only. The existing Dial-A-Ride services; Staffordshire Moorlands Connect, South Staffordshire Connect, Needwood Forest Connect, Lichfield and Rugeley Village Connect and the Border Car would be maintained. An additional seven new Dial-A-Ride services would also be introduced. There would be no local council subsidised bus services.

Q14 How far do you agree or disagree with this option?

- Strongly agree Disagree
 Agree Strongly disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree

Q15 Please tell us how travel under this option would affect the people you, your group or organisation represent?

- It wouldn't affect the people I, my group or organisation represent as they rarely, if ever, use the service
 The people I, my group or organisation represent might be affected but they could probably make alternative arrangements
 This would have a big effect on the people I, my group or organisation represent

Q16 How will the people you, your group or organisation represent be affected by this option?

Organisational and group support for maintaining services

There are a number of community and voluntary transport schemes running across the county. We want to find out what is happening in your local area and whether you would be willing to support communities with running a local initiative.

Support could include helping to fund extra journeys. It could also include helping people to access other community and voluntary transport schemes which may already be in existence. For example schemes which offer lifts to neighbours in need, employee car share schemes, sharing taxis, offering a dial-a-ride payable service or running a local minibuss scheme. It could also include helping communities to set up initiatives of their own.

Q17 Are you aware of the existence of community and voluntary transport schemes in your local area?

- Yes
 To some extent
 No

Q18 Please tell us about the community and voluntary transport initiatives you are aware of in your local area

Q19 Would you be interested in supporting local communities to set up and run their own community and voluntary transport scheme?

- Yes, I could signpost people to an existing scheme
 Yes, I could share information on the types of community or voluntary transport schemes available
 Yes, I could support local communities to set up their own community or voluntary transport scheme. For example by helping them to; identify need, secure funding, write a business plan or raise awareness.
 Yes, I could support local communities with implementing a community or voluntary transport scheme
 Yes, I could provide another type of support

Another type of support (please specify)

Q20 If you are interested in running or supporting a local community or voluntary transport scheme, please include your contact details below

Your name:

Your email:

Your postal address:

Suggestions/ideas

Q21 If you have any other suggestions/ideas that could help contribute towards the savings that need to be made, please tell us about these below.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. Please click on submit to return your views to us.



Mr L Trigg
Town Clerk
Stone Town Council
15 Station Road
Stone
ST15 8JR

CONTACT	Alex Yendole
DIAL	01785 619 000
FAX	01785 619 473
OUR REF	AY/TA
YOUR REF	
DATE	19 July 2017



Dear Sir or Madam

**Stafford Borough Local Plan Review
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that we have launched our consultation on Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Local Plan Review.

As part of the plan making process, the purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to appraise new planning policies and proposals as they are being prepared. The Sustainability Appraisal reports will be prepared and consulted upon as part of the evidence base prior to the plan being independently examined.

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and Response Form can be found by visiting the Stafford Borough Council's website at www.staffordbc.gov.uk/forwardplanning. Alternatively copies of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report can be inspected at the Ground Floor Reception, Stafford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford, during normal office hours Monday – Thursday 08.30 – 17.00, Friday 08.30 – 16.30. Reference copies have been supplied to Public Libraries within Stafford Borough.

Please ensure that any comments are received by **12 noon on Wednesday 6th September 2017** via e-mail at forwardplanning@staffordbc.gov.uk

Responses to the Scoping Report will be used to prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary and also contribute towards the Local Plan Review objectives.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Alex Yendole
Forward Planning



Stafford Borough Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

July 2017

Non-Technical Summary

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

What is the Development Plan?

The Development Plan is a term used to describe documents, which includes all the local planning authority's Plan documents. A Development Plan is usually comprised of:

- Plan Documents (which form part of the statutory Development Plan)
- Supplementary Planning Documents (these may cover a range of issues and provides further detail of policies and proposals in a 'parent' Plan Document).

The Stafford Borough Development Plan is comprised of the following documents:

- The Plan for Stafford Borough
- The Plan for Stafford Borough – Part 2
- Made/Adopted Neighbourhood Development Plans

These documents can be found on the Council's Website via the link below:

<http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/lp>

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Appraisal is a tool used to appraise planning policy documents in order to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations.

Why carry out Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Appraisal is a compulsory requirement under the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. Councils must also comply with the requirements of the European Community 2001/42/EEC Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

What is the Sustainability Appraisal Framework?

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework is the framework that will be used to appraise planning policies.

The framework is made up of sustainability objectives, indicators and targets tailored to the key sustainability issues for Stafford Borough.

What are the main stages of the Sustainability Appraisal?

Stage A – Setting the context, objectives, baseline and scope for the SA (Scoping Stage)

Stage B – Developing and refining plan options (SA Commentary)

Stage C – Appraisal of the social, economic and environmental effects of the plan (SA Report)

Stage D – Consulting on the plan and the SA Report

Stage E – Monitoring the implementation of the plan

Summary of the Scoping Report Findings

Drawing on the baseline data the following sustainability issues, problems and opportunities have been reported:

Environmental

- Delivery of Brownfield Register to promote the re-use of previously developed land
- Loss of biodiversity habitats.
- Protection and adaptation of heritage assets.
- Loss of individual character for Stafford Borough's settlements.
- Residents have relatively low access to woodland areas
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC) contributions are an opportunity to protect and enhance Cannock Chase
- Decreasing percentage of housing completions on previously developed land

Social, Health and Wellbeing

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

- Relatively low crime rate
- A high percentage of people are satisfied with Stafford as a place to live
- Neighbourhood Development Plans offer an opportunity for local communities to become empowered
- Planned investment in sport and leisure facilities

Economic

- Growth in advanced manufacturing
- Need to deliver more employment land across the Borough
- Delivery of Brownfield to provide growth opportunities to meet housing demand
- Support needed for Town Centre regeneration and investment
- Growth of business parks
- Opportunities for higher value added companies in growth sectors
- Boost of MoD garrison
- Major opportunity with HS2 and development of the Stafford Gateway
- Ageing/shrinking workforce – need continued growth in housing and employment sites, and in migration of workers.
- Need to capitalise on the high skills base of Borough residents
- Ensure provision of the required infrastructure for growth – including broadband

Sustainability Objectives

The Scoping Report proposes the following Sustainability Objectives. These will be used to assess planning policies, in order to ensure sustainable development is achieved.

Economic

1. To create high, stable and equitable levels of employment
2. To ensure high and stable levels of economic diversity and competitiveness that recognises social and environmental issues
3. To sustain the vitality and viability of Stafford Borough's towns and villages, and their communities
4. To support the needs of the local rural economy and communities
5. To reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change such as risk flooding, on public well-being, the economy and the environment

Social, Health and Wellbeing

6. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home
7. To improve opportunities for access for all to work, education, health and local services
8. To reduce and prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime
9. To reduce the impact of noise and light pollution
10. To improve health, safety and well-being across the whole community

Environmental

11. To reduce societal contributions to climate change
12. To protect and enhance biodiversity
13. To protect and conserve soil
14. To protect and enhance water quality of the Borough's rivers whilst maximising their carrying capacity and achieving sustainable water resource management
15. To protect, enhance and, where necessary, restore designated landscape areas and town character, scenic beauty, local distinctiveness, and historic and cultural character

Community

16. To create a sense of community identity and belonging
17. To ensure tolerance, respect and engagement with people from different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs recognising their rights and responsibilities
18. To ensure all individuals and groups in society have the opportunity to effectively engage in issues relating to their community
19. To encourage a strong, inclusive, community and voluntary sector
20. To engender a sense of civic and neighbourhood values, responsibility and pride

Next Steps

Once the Scoping stage has been completed the next stage of the process involves appraising plan options against the sustainability objectives, in the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary. Each plan option will be appraised against short, medium and long term time-scales and will also be compared against a 'do nothing' option.

Where there is a preferred option in terms of sustainability, this will be highlighted and contribute towards the policies in the Preferred Options stage of each Plan document.

How can I get involved?

At the Scoping stage we are asking for any comments regarding the following:

- Plan Objectives
- Key Sustainability Issues
- Sustainability Appraisal Framework
- Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Or via post to the following address: Forward Planning, Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford, ST16 3AQ

Or by e-mail to forwardplanning@staffordbc.gov.uk

If you wish to respond to the Proposals consultation please provide your feedback to Stafford Borough Council by 12 noon Wednesday 6 September 2017.

If you need this information in large print, Braille, other language or on audio cassette please contact: 01785 61900

Contents

1. Introduction	7
2. Sustainability Appraisal and the Development Plan Process.....	9
3. Plan Objectives.....	11
4. Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes	12
5. Baseline Data for the Sustainability Appraisal	15
6. Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities	24
7. Sustainability Objectives, Indicators and Targets	26
8. Quality Assurance	36
9. Methodology for preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Reports	37
10. Stage B2 – Developing and Refining the Plan Options	38
11. Stages B3 and B4 – Predicting and Evaluating the Effects of the Plan	41
12. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.....	43
13. Habitats Regulations Assessment.....	44
14. Stage D – Consulting on the Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report	46
15. Examination of the Plan	48
16. Stage E – Monitoring the Significant Effects of Implementing the Development Plan	49
Glossary.....	50

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document is the scoping stage of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). A Sustainability Appraisal provides a tool for helping authorities to identify sustainable approaches for dealing with key planning issues.
- 1.2. The scoping report will assess any local challenges based on the current position, and determine likely issues that may arise as part of the plan.
- 1.3. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, new development plans are required to be accompanied by a sustainability appraisal.
- 1.4. In 1999 the Government set out four central aims for achieving Sustainable Development in 'A Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK.' (DETR, 1999). The four aims are as follows:
 - Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
 - Effective protection of the environment
 - Prudent use of natural resources
 - Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment
- 1.5. To meet these aims 'Securing the Future – A UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2005' (Defra, 2005) presents the following guiding principles to bring together and build on existing principles in order to set out an overarching approach for Sustainable Development.
 - living with environmental limits
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
 - Achieving a sustainable economy
 - Promoting good governance
 - Using sound science responsibly
- 1.6. To be effective, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) must be fully integrated into the plan-making process. The SA will appraise each stage of the Development Plan's production, and audit key policy decisions. Sustainability Appraisal will monitor the effectiveness of the plan during its implementation in order to inform future revisions.
- 1.7. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) will apply to Plan documents prepared by the Council, allowing them to be appraised to determine whether they are likely to make a positive contribution to sustainable development objectives, and not just minimisation of adverse impacts. In the case of Plan documents requiring both SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the SEA requirements will be incorporated into the SA reports.
- 1.8. The objective of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive is:

“to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans . . . with a view to promoting sustainable development”.

1.9. The full title of the European Community Directive is ‘Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effect of certain plans and programmes on the environment’. However for the sake of brevity, this Scoping Report will refer to the Directive as the SEA Directive.

1.10. The objective of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive is

- Identifying strategic alternatives;
- Collecting baseline environmental information;
- More thorough prediction of significant environmental effects;
- Greater consultation of the public and statutory environmental agencies;
- Addressing and monitoring the significant environmental effects of the plan.

1.11. The SEA Directive defines environmental assessment as a procedure comprising of

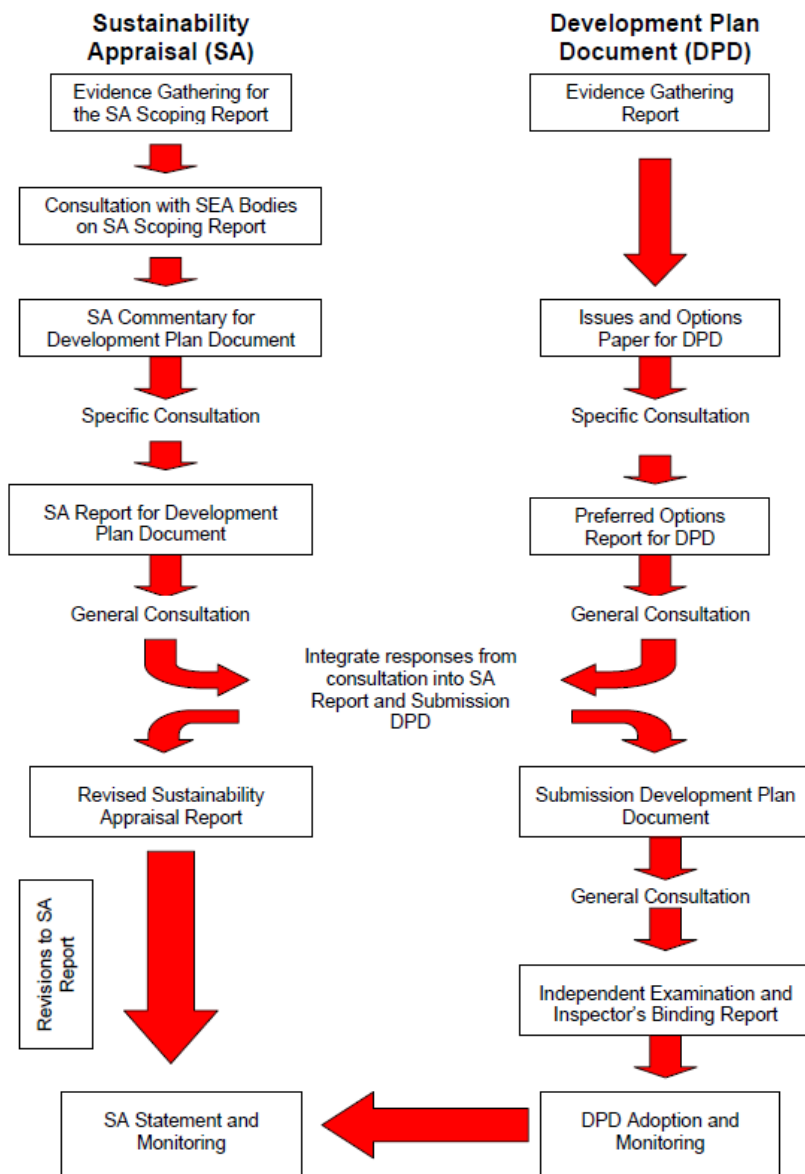
- Preparing an environmental report on the likely significant effects;
- Preparing an environmental report on the likely significant effects of the draft plan;
- Carrying out consultation on the draft plan and the accompanying environmental report;
- Taking into account the environmental report and the results of consultation in decision making; and
- Providing information when the plan is adopted and showing how the results of the SEA have been taken into account.

1.12. The main difference between Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is that SEA is focused primarily on environmental effects, whilst SA incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive and goes further by examining the social and economic impacts of the plan. Therefore the SA process fully complies with the European Parliament’s SEA Directive and the SEA Regulations prepared by the British Government.

2. Sustainability Appraisal and the Development Plan Process

- 2.1. It has been normal practice for those preparing and commenting on development plans to consider their likely environmental effects. Therefore the principle of assessing the environmental consequences of plans is not new. However what the SEA Directive and SA process require is the use of an explicit and systematic method to comprehensively and impartially identify and assess the environmental consequences of the development plan.
- 2.2. The method for completing a Sustainability Appraisal on a Plan document involves the process outlined in Figure 2.1 below. Although the approach is presented as sequence relevant objectives, policies and proposals may be re-examined in light of the information gathered through the SA process and in associated consultations. The consultation process and submission of both the Sustainability Appraisal Reports and the Plan Documents will take place at the same time.
- 2.3. This Scoping Report covers the first stage of the process, Stage A – Scoping, providing a context for all elements of the Development Plan. Subsequently individual reports will be issued for each Plan document. This Scoping Report is being consulted upon in order to decide the scope and level of detail for the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary and, subsequently, the Sustainability Appraisal Report and to ensure a robust and comprehensive Sustainability Appraisal process to appraise the Plan document.
- 2.4. The Government has designated the Environment Agency, Natural England (previously English Nature and The Countryside Agency) and English Heritage as ‘authorities with environmental responsibilities’ through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These agencies must be consulted by plan making authorities in England on the content of the Scoping Report and SEA requirements. Other agencies will also be consulted to provide feedback on the social and economic aspects of the Report.
- 2.5. Consultation on this Scoping Report will clarify the baseline information to be used for the Sustainability Appraisal process, identify all of the relevant plans, policies and programmes, refine the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and provide a context for next stages of the SA process.

Figure 2.1: Incorporating Appraisals into the Plan Process



3. Plan Objectives

- 3.1. The Stafford Borough Development Plan consists of the Local Plan and ‘made’ Neighbourhood Development Plans. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) can also be created to provide further guidance to policies in the Development Plan. The Development Plan Objectives will be appraised in the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary, based on the sustainability objectives.

Question SA 1

What do you think the Plan Objectives for the Development Plan should be?

4. Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 4.1. A Development plan is prepared in isolation, being greatly influenced by other plans, policies and programmes and by broader sustainability objectives. It needs to be consistent with international and national guidance and strategic planning policies and 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.
- 4.2. 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, which identifies the SA objectives that are relevant to each plan, policy or programme. The key plans, policies and programmes are summarised below.
- 4.3. 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.
- 4.4. 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.

Key national plans, policies and programmes

- 4.5. The Development Plan (which includes Local Plans) must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF. The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making, stating that: *"Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development."*
- 4.6. The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be 'aspirational but realistic'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order 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.

4.7. 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.

Local plans, policies and programmes

At the sub-national and local levels 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 Community Infrastructure Levy. A review of these documents can be found in the Technical Appendix.

Question SA 2

Do you have any suggestions for other plans, policies or programmes to be considered through the Sustainability Appraisal process?

5. Baseline Data for the Sustainability Appraisal

- 5.1. Stafford Borough Council has collected significant data about the current state of the environment, economy and society in order to assess the effects of implementing the Development Plan from the sustainability perspective.
- 5.2. The following table provides a selection of baseline data which will be used as the basis for prediction and monitoring of environmental and other sustainability effects in order 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 Technical Appendix provides additional information on these 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 (NVQ4 and above/ no qualifications (percentage) ¹	(Jan 2015 - Dec 2015) NVQ4: 41.5% No qualifications: 4.9%	NVQ4: West Midlands: 31.2% Great Britain: 37.5% No qualifications: West Midlands: 13.0% Great Britain: 8.6%	Performing well against the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain good performance
% Increase in number of enterprises ¹	2015/16 2.1%	West Midlands: 4.7% England: 4.6%	Performing below the national and regional average	Unfavourable position	Improve upon current position
Completion of land employment	Hectares completed	The Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-	Employment land completions	Unfavourable position	Need to deliver more employment

¹ NOMIS - <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157178/report.aspx?town=Stafford#tabidbr>

provision? ²	Average between 2011/12-2015/16: 2.8ha	2031 set an annual target of 8ha	have been below the annual target		land across the Borough
Percentage of vacant retail units (Stafford Town Centre) ³	Dec16 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 ⁴	2014/15: 7% 2015/16: 73% As of 2015/16 only 10% of commitments (sites with permission but not yet built) are within town centres	Target: Maximise developments in the town centres	Mixed success	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Continue to promote uses within the town centres
Job Seekers Allowance (percentage) ⁵	Feb 2017 0.8%	West Midlands: 2.4% England: 1.9%	Stafford 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 ⁶	2014: 34.2	West Midlands: 28.8 England: 27.7	Stafford has a higher ratio of dependent older people than the regional and national average	Unfavourable position	Improve current position
Young people not in education or training (NEET) ⁶	Jan 2015: 3.4%	Staffordshire: 3.1%	Stafford has a slightly higher percentage of NEETs than the county average	Slightly unfavourable position	Improve current position

² Stafford Borough Authority Monitoring Report 2016

³ Stafford Borough Council data / Local Data Company

⁴ Stafford Borough Authority Monitoring Reports

⁵ Nomis - <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157178/report.aspx?town=Stafford#tabidbr>

⁶ Staffordshire Observatory – Stafford: Locality Profile

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) ⁷	2014 (estimate) 21.2%	West Midlands: 18% England: 17.6% (estimates)	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) ⁷	2015 5.4% of people in the most deprived quartile	West Midlands: 29.3% 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 (homelessness acceptances per 1000 households) ⁸	Average 2014/15 – 2016/17 Q2) 0.21 % However, this figure has increased in the 2016/17 period	Staffordshire (excluding Newcastle): 0.4% England: 0.61%	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Focus on reducing homelessness in the Borough
Affordable housing completions ⁹	2014/15: 226 2015/16: 159 2016/17 (Q1-3): 226	Since 2014, Stafford Borough has delivered 643 affordable homes against a cumulative	Performing well against the Borough's target	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough

⁷ Staffordshire Observatory – Stafford: Locality Profile

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>

⁹ Stafford Borough Council affordable completions performance data

		target of 542.			
Housing Affordability Ratio (ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings) ¹⁰	2015: Ratio: 6.88	Staffordshire Ratio: 6.7 England Ratio: 6.5	Similar to the national ratio	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Provide a housing mix to ensure a range of housing
Total recorded crime (rate per 1000) ¹¹	2014/15: 41.6	West Midlands: 56.9 England: 61.7	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough
Residents who felt fearful of being a victim of crime ¹¹	Mar14-Sept15: 6.2%	Staffordshire: 13.1%	Performing well in comparison to the county average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough
Lone pensioner households ¹¹	2011: 12.8%	West Midlands: 12.6% England: 12.4%	Performing slightly worse than the regional and national average	Slightly unfavourable position	Improve the current position across the Borough
Physical inactivity in adults (percentage) ¹¹	2014: 24.7%	West Midlands: 29.1% England: 27.7%	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 ¹¹	2012-2014: 68.3%	West Midlands: 66.6% England: 64.6%	Performing poorly against the regional and national average	Unfavourable position	Need to promote a healthier lifestyles

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-housing-market-and-house-prices> (tables 576-578)

¹¹ Staffordshire Observatory – Stafford: Locality Profile

Limiting long-term illness (percentage) ¹²	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) ¹²	2012-2014: 158	West Midlands: 193 England: 183	Performing well against the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough
Buildings 'at risk' ¹³	8 buildings were on the 2016 buildings at risk register equating to around 1% of listed buildings in the Borough	West Midlands 4.5%	Performing well against the regional average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough
Homes with a HHSRS hazard ¹⁴	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) estimate ¹⁵	2011: Percentage of dwellings which have an occupancy rating (bedrooms) of -2 or less	West Midlands -1 (3.77% (-2 or less (0.69%)) England -1 (3.95%), -2 or less (0.70%)	Performing well against the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough

¹² Staffordshire Observatory – Stafford: Locality Profile 2016

¹³ Stafford Borough Council: Buildings at Risk Register

¹⁴ BRE Client Report - BRE Integrated Dwelling Level Housing Stock Modelling and Database for Stafford

¹⁵ Census 2011

	0.24%, (-1) 1.7%				
Percentage of long term empty homes ¹⁶	Oct 2015 1.0%	West Midlands: 0.88%	Performing relatively poorly against the regional average.	Unfavourable condition	Need to improve the current position
Percentage of residents who are Satisfied with their area as a place to live ¹⁷	Mar14- Sept15: 95.8%	Staffordshire: 90.3%	Performing well against the county average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough
Depression prevalence (ages 18+) ¹⁷	2014/15: 7.2%	West Midlands: 7.6% England: 7.3%	The figures are slightly lower than the regional and national average	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Continue to work with partners to support mental health across the Borough
Neighbourhood Development Plans ¹⁸	Since 2011: 8 areas designated 4 plans adopted	No comparators	No trends	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Continue to support community groups creating Neighbourhood Development Plans
Number of voluntary organisations registered with Support Staffordshire which deliver in Stafford Borough ¹⁹	April 2017: 147	No comparators available	No trends available	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Maintain/ improve current performance

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants>
table 615 (data as of Oct 2015)

¹⁷ Staffordshire Observatory – Stafford: Locality Profile 2016

¹⁸ Stafford Borough Authority Monitoring Report 2016

¹⁹ Support Staffordshire data

Environmental Baseline Data					
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) ²⁰	2015/16: 50%	Average 2011/12 to 2015/16: 64%	Decreasing percentage of housing completions on PDL	Unfavourable condition	Continue to maximise Housing completions on PDL
Woodland access ²¹	% of population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m 7.1%	West Midlands 16.6%	Performing poorly against regional average.	Unfavourable condition	Need to provide more woodland access
Travel to work (percentage) ²²	2011 Car/Van: 42.4% Bicycle: 1.8% On foot: 6.8%	Staffordshire: Car/Van: 44.2% Bicycle: 1.2% On foot: 5.4%	Performing well against the County average	Favourable position	Continue to promote more sustainable modes of travel
Percentage of household waste ²³	2016 52.4%	England: 43%	Performing well against national average	Favourable position	Maintain/improve current performance
Developer contributions to the Cannock Chase Special Area of	2015/16: £276,000 has been collected and £1,647,000 has been committed	No comparators	No trends	Continue to collect contributions to protect and enhance the SAC	Maintain/improve current performance

²⁰ Land for New Homes Publications – Stafford Borough Council

²¹ Woodland Trust: 'Space for People (Jan 2015) Targeting Action for Woodland Access

²² Staffordshire Observatory – Stafford: Locality Profile

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>

Conservation (SAC) ²⁴	across the four competent authorities				
Percentage of Sites of Biological Interest (SBIs) in appropriate conservation management (ACM) ²⁵	2015: 45%	2011: 32% 2008: 17%	Increasing number of SBIs in ACM	Favourable condition	Continue to increase the number of SBIs in ACM
Quality of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) ²⁶	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 ²⁷	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
Water quality ²⁸	Trent Valley Staffordshire (2015) Ecological status or potential: 51% moderate or over Chemical status: 98% good	Humber River Basin (2015) Ecological status or potential: 83% moderate or over Chemical status: 97% good	Poor ecological status compared to the wider area Chemical status is similar to the wider area	Unfavourable condition Favourable position	Consider ways to enhance the ecological status of waterways in the Borough
Noise complaints ²⁹	2016: 460	2015: 517 2014: 630 2013:740	Number of noise complaints across the Borough are	Maintain/improve current performance	Continue to address causes of noise pollution

²⁴ Stafford Borough Authority Monitoring Report 2016

²⁵ Staffordshire Wildlife Trust data

²⁶ Natural England <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>

²⁷ Includes all SSSIs within or partially within the Borough boundary

²⁸ Environment Agency <http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/>

²⁹ Stafford Borough Council Data

			decreasing		
Light pollution complains ³⁰	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

Question SA 3

Do you know of any data that is missing or misrepresented in these tables?

³⁰ Stafford Borough Council Data

6. Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- 6.1. Through analysis of the baseline data a number of key sustainability issues for Stafford Borough have been identified in order 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 Section 4 of this Scoping Report that other Plans, Policies and Programmes may affect the success of each plan document.
- 6.2. The table 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 table in Section 5. 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

Table 6.1 Social Sustainability Issues

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities
Social, Health and Wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Relatively low crime rate • A high percentage of people are satisfied as Stafford Borough as a place to live • Neighbourhood Development Plans offer an opportunity for local communities to become empowered • Planned investment in sport and leisure facilities

Economic

Table 6.2 Economic Sustainability Issues

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities	
Economic	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth in advanced manufacturing • Need to deliver more employment land across the Borough • Delivery of Brownfield Register to provide growth opportunities to meet housing demand • Support needed for Town Centre regeneration and investment • Growth of business parks • Opportunities for higher value added companies in growth sectors • Boost of MoD garrison • Major opportunity with HS2 and development of the Stafford Gateway • Ageing/shrinking workforce – need continued growth in housing and employment sites and in migration of workers. • Need to capitalise on the high skills base of Borough residents • Ensure we have the required infrastructure for growth – including broadband 	

Environmental

Table 6.3 Environmental Sustainability Issues

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities	
Environmental	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Brownfield Register to promote the re-use of previously developed land • Loss of biodiversity habitats. • Protection and adaptation of heritage assets. • Loss of individual character for Stafford Borough's settlements. • Residents have relatively low access to woodland areas • SAC contributions are an opportunity to protect and enhance Cannock Chase • Decreasing percentage of housing completions on previously developed land 	

Question SA 4

Do you think there are any other sustainability issues or opportunities that need to be considered in the development of the plan?

Question SA 5

Do you think any of the sustainability issues and opportunities require further explanation?

7. Sustainability Objectives, Indicators and Targets

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. The following sustainability objectives are proposed for the Sustainability Appraisal Framework:

Economic Objectives

1. To create high, stable and equitable levels of employment
2. To ensure high and stable levels of economic diversity and competitiveness that recognises social and environmental issues
3. To sustain the vitality and viability of Stafford Borough's towns and villages, and their communities
4. To support the needs of the local rural economy and communities

5. To reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change such as risk of flooding, on public well-being, the economy and the environment.

Social, Health and Wellbeing Objectives

6. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home
7. To improve opportunities for access for all to work, education, health and local services
8. To reduce and prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime
9. To reduce the impact of noise and light pollution
10. To improve health, safety and well-being across the whole community

Environmental Objectives

11. To reduce societal contributions to climate change
12. To protect and enhance biodiversity
13. To protect and conserve soil
14. To protect and enhance water quality of the Borough's rivers whilst maximising their carrying capacity and achieving sustainable water resource management.
15. To protect, enhance and, where necessary, restore designated landscape areas and town character, scenic beauty, local distinctiveness, and historic and cultural character.

Community Objectives

16. To create a sense of community identity and belonging
17. To ensure tolerance, respect and engagement with people from different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs recognising their rights and responsibilities
18. To ensure that all individuals and groups in society have the opportunity to effectively engage in issues relating to their community
19. To encourage a strong, inclusive, community and voluntary sector
20. To engender a sense of civic and neighbourhood values, responsibility and pride

Table 7.1 Sustainability Objectives, Indicators and Targets

	Sustainability Objectives	SEA Topic	Indicator and Target
Economic	1.To create high, stable and equitable levels of employment	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of JSA applicants <p>Target: Maintain and improve good performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business deaths / business births <p>Target: Improve current performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new jobs created across all sectors of the economy <p>Target: Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of young people not in education, employment or training <p>Target: Reduce</p>
	2.To ensure high and stable levels of economic diversity and competitiveness that recognises social and environmental issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of people reaching NVQ4+ qualifications <p>Target: Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of people with no qualifications <p>Target: Reduce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of employment land across the Borough <p>Target: Increase</p>
	3.To sustain the vitality and viability of Stafford Borough's towns and villages, and their communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new retail, office and leisure development in the town centres <p>Target: Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of vacant units in the town centres <p>Target: Reduce</p>

Social, Health and Wellbeing	4.To support the needs of the local rural economy and communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of community land and floorspace lost to other uses <p>Target: Minimise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The diversification of agricultural and rural businesses <p>Target: Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of affordable homes to accommodate local needs in rural areas <p>Target: Increase according to identified need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-use of vacant land and buildings for employment purposes in the rural area <p>Target: Increase</p>
	5. To reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change such as risk of flooding, on public well-being, the economy and the environment.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new developments incorporating sustainable drainage systems and other water saving techniques <p>Target: All new developments to incorporate water saving measures or those which control water as near to the source as possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of employment developments given planning permission on flood plains or major aquifers <p>Target: No planning permissions on flood plains or on major aquifers in line with the National Planning Policy Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New developments incorporate renewable technology <p>Target: Increase</p>
	6.To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	Population and Human Health	

			<p>completions</p> <p>Target: Meet identified target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness <p>Target: Decrease</p>
	7.To improve opportunities for access for all to work, education, health and local services	Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new developments incorporating a range of transport options <p>Target: All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled access <p>Target: all new build to comply with the Disability and Discrimination Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of mixed use developments <p>Target: Increase</p>
	8.To reduce and prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime	Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new developments incorporating crime prevention measures <p>Target: Maintain and improve current performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorded crime per 1,000 population <p>Target: Maintain and improve current performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of crime surveys <p>Target: Reduce fear of crime</p>
	9.To reduce the impact of noise and light pollution	Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments incorporating landscaping as a way of reducing potential noise or light impacts <p>Target: Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of noise and Light pollution complains

Environmenta I	10.To improve health, safety and well-being across the whole community	Population and Human Health	<p>Target: Reduce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Listed Buildings at Risk <p>Target: Reduce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support developments and improvements identified in the Borough Council’s Sport and Leisure Investment Plan <p>Target: Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to Work Model Split <p>Target: Increase more sustainable modes of transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Management Area <p>Target: Ensure no Air Quality Management Areas are required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of buildings and vacant land reused <p>Target: Increase</p>
	11.To reduce societal contributions to climate change	Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people travelling to work by private vehicle <p>Target: Reduce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new development incorporating water efficiency techniques <p>Target: Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new developments incorporating renewable energies <p>Target: Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of developments Facilitating the use of electric vehicles through future provision of charging points / traffic schemes <p>Target: Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlands lost to new development

			Target: None
	12.To protect and enhance biodiversity	Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments that may adversely affect species or habitats locations <p>Target: Reduce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of historic parks and gardens <p>Target: Maintain / Conserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of SBIs in active management <p>Target: Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of SSSIs <p>Target: Improve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stafford Borough’s Biodiversity Strategy <p>Target: Meet the targets in the strategy 2016 – 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning permissions given affecting SSSIs <p>Target: No planning permissions to be given that affect SSSIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer contributions to the SAC <p>Target: Maintain to collect and utilise developer contributions towards the SAC</p>
	13.To protect and conserve soil	Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of development on previously developed land <p>Target: Maximise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil degradation <p>Target: Minimise the degradation or loss of soils to new developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remediation of contaminated land

			<p>Target: Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield Land Register <p>Target: Mobilise the register to promote brownfield sites</p>
	<p>14. To protect and enhance water quality of the Borough's rivers whilst maximising their carrying capacity and achieving sustainable water resource management.</p>	<p>Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of rivers, canals and freshwater bodies within the Borough <p>Target: Achieve standards set out by the Water Framework Directive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new developments incorporating sustainable drainage systems and other water saving techniques <p>Target: All new development to incorporate water saving measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of development given planning permission on flood plains or major aquifers <p>Target: No planning permissions for developments on flood plains or on major aquifers as stated in the National Planning Policy Framework</p>
	<p>15. To protect, enhance and, where necessary, restore designated landscape areas and town character, scenic beauty, local distinctiveness, and historic and cultural character.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage and Landscape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments that adversely affect historic character <p>Target: None</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number / Area and % of Listed Buildings 'at risk' <p>Target: Reduce the number of sites and buildings at risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning permissions adversely affecting the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) <p>Target: None</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments and re use of existing buildings in the Green Belt area that do not maintain its openness

Community			<p>Target: None</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people living close to accessible woodland, accessible recreational routes and spaces <p>Target: Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of SBIs in active management <p>Target: Increase</p>
	16.To create a sense of community identity and belonging	Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a good housing mix including bungalows and C2 accommodation to cater for an ageing population <p>Target: Maintain a good housing mix in line with the Strategic Housing Market Needs Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and Community Facilities <p>Target: Maintain and enhance social and community facilities across the Borough</p>
	17. To ensure tolerance, respect and engagement with people from different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs recognising their rights and responsibilities	Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who are satisfied with Stafford Borough as a place to live <p>Target: Increase</p>
	18.To ensure that all individuals and groups in society have the opportunity to effectively engage in issues relating to their community		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase engagement and interactions when creating the development plan <p>Targets: Increase interactions when creating Plan documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of plan documents compliant with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) <p>Target: All plan documents to be compliant with the SCI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Planning

			Target: Support all communities wanting to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan
	19.To encourage a strong, inclusive, community and voluntary sector		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of voluntary organisations registered with support Staffordshire Target: Maintain/Increase
	20.To engender a sense of civic and neighbourhood values, responsibility and pride		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who are satisfied with Stafford Borough as a place to live Target: Increase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Planning Target: Support all communities wanting to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan

Question SA 6

Do you agree with the targets and indicators?

Question SA 7

Do you agree with the targets and indicators?

8. Quality Assurance

- 8.1. Quality assurance is an important element of the appraisal process. Quality assurance helps to ensure that the SEA requirements are met, it highlights any issues whilst carrying out the Sustainability Appraisal, and it shows how effectively the appraisal has integrated sustainability considerations into the plan preparation process. A quality assurance checklist will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

9. Methodology for preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Reports

- 9.1. Following the Scoping Report stage (Stage A – Scoping) of the Sustainability Appraisal process, the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary will be prepared in order to test the objectives for the Development Plan against the SA Framework and to appraise the options in each Plan document Issues and Options Paper. The Sustainability Appraisal Commentary and the Issues and Options Paper will then be consulted upon at the same time, after which a Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published and consulted upon alongside the Preferred Options Paper. Finally the Council will prepare the submission plan and submit the policy documents alongside the amended Sustainability Appraisal Reports.
- 9.2. 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

10. Stage B2 – Developing and Refining the Plan Options

- 10.1. 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.
- 10.2. 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 options.

Table 10.1 Example of Appraisal Table

Plan Objective Number	Sustainability Objectives – Economic				
	1	2	3	4	5
PO1	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Conflict	Compatible
<i>Comments: Plan Objective 1 is in conflict with Sustainability Objective 4 because.....</i>					
PO2	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
PO3	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
PO4	Conflict	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Conflict
<i>Comments: Plan Objective is in conflict with Sustainability Objectives 1 and 5 because.....</i>					
	Sustainability Objective – Social				
	6	7	8	9	10
PO1	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Conflict
<i>Comments:</i>					
PO2	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible

- 10.3. 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 10.2 Example of Plan Objectives Appraisal Table

	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4
PO1				
PO2	Compatible			
PO3	Compatible	Compatible		
PO4	Compatible	Conflict	Compatible	
<i>Comments: Plan Objective 4 and Plan Objective 2 are in conflict because.....</i>				

- 10.4. During the preparation of the issues and options various policy options will be developed in order to meet the Plan Objectives. Each of these policy options will be tested through the Sustainability Appraisal Framework to identify the sustainability effects of each option and to assess its performance in terms of sustainability.
- 10.5. Initially the various policy options 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 option create two jobs or a hundred jobs; will the policy option 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 options are developed and the Plan document’s progress through the various stages.
- 10.6. The most effective way of appraising the effects of a policy option is by comparing it with a state, an option or an objective. Using the table below refined policy options will be compared with the sustainability objectives. This process may also lead to new policy options being developed or composed of several different aspects of the policy options.

Table 10.3 Example of Options Appraisal Process

SA	Option A			Option B			Option C		
	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	-

	<i>Option A</i>			<i>Option B</i>			<i>Option C</i>		
<i>SA</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>L</i>
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	+
	<i>Option A</i>			<i>Option B</i>			<i>Option C</i>		
COMMENTS	<i>Option A</i>			<i>Option B</i>			<i>Option C</i>		
	RECOMMENDATION								
	<i>Option ** performs best in terms of sustainability objectives etc...</i>								

10.7. Where policy options 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 policy options or during the consultation process.

10.8. The developing and refining options process will form part of the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary, which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Issues and Options Papers. Alongside the appraisal of plan options the SA Commentary will also compare plan options against the option of ‘do nothing’ or business as usual. This will highlight what benefits each plan option could provide.

11. Stages B3 and B4 – Predicting and Evaluating the Effects of the Plan

- 11.1. The next stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process is to assess, in more detail, each preferred policy option in the Preferred Options Document 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.
- 11.2. Each preferred policy option will be assessed using the table set out below, with recommendations for refining the policy option 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 11.1 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						

- 11.3. 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.

11.4. 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 11.2 Example of cumulative effects

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

- 11.5. 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 preferred policy options. Conclusions on the overall sustainability effects of the preferred policy option will be provided as part of the SA Report.
- 11.6. 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.
- 11.7. 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 Preferred Options of the Plan.
- 11.8. Following the consultation on the Preferred Options and the Sustainability Appraisal Report the preferred policy options 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.

12. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

- 12.1. The National Planning Policy Framework provides clear guidance that development should not take place where there is substantial risk of flooding. Paragraph 100 states:

‘Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere’.

- 12.2. 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 and development options through the Sustainability Appraisal process.

13. Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 13.1. 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.
- 13.2. 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.
- 13.3. 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

Picture 13.1 Cannock Chase SAC



Picture 13.2 Chartley Moss SAC



14. Stage D – Consulting on the Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

- 14.1. 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.
- 14.2. 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 14.1 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 thereof 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, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental, <i>economic or 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 taken into account 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;	
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 compiling the required information;	

SEA Requirements for Environmental Report	Location in Sustainability Report
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 decision-making 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental / <i>sustainability appraisal</i> report (Art. 5.4) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● authorities with environmental, <i>social or economic</i> 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 / <i>sustainability appraisal</i> report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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/ <i>sustainability appraisal</i> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the plan or programme as adopted ● a statement summarising how environmental, <i>social and economic</i> considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental / <i>sustainability appraisal</i> 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 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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, <i>social and economic</i> effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)	
Quality assurance: environmental / <i>sustainability appraisal</i> reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive	

15. Examination of the Plan

- 15.1. 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.

16. Stage E – Monitoring the Significant Effects of Implementing the Development Plan

- 16.1. 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.
- 16.2. 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.

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.)
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).
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. 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.
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.
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.

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT
LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
RESPONSE FORM**

Introduction

The purpose of this Response Form is to provide responses to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Local Plan Review.

Please could you complete and return the Response Form, to the address below or submit by email by **12 noon Wednesday 6th September 2017**.

Plan Objectives (SA Scoping Report section 3)

SA1: What do you think the Plan Objectives for the Local Plan Review should be?

Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (SA Scoping Report section 4)

SA2: Do you have any suggestions for other plans, policies or programmes to be considered through the Sustainability Appraisal process?

Baseline Data (SA Scoping Report section 5)

SA3: Do you know of any data that is missing or misrepresented in these tables?

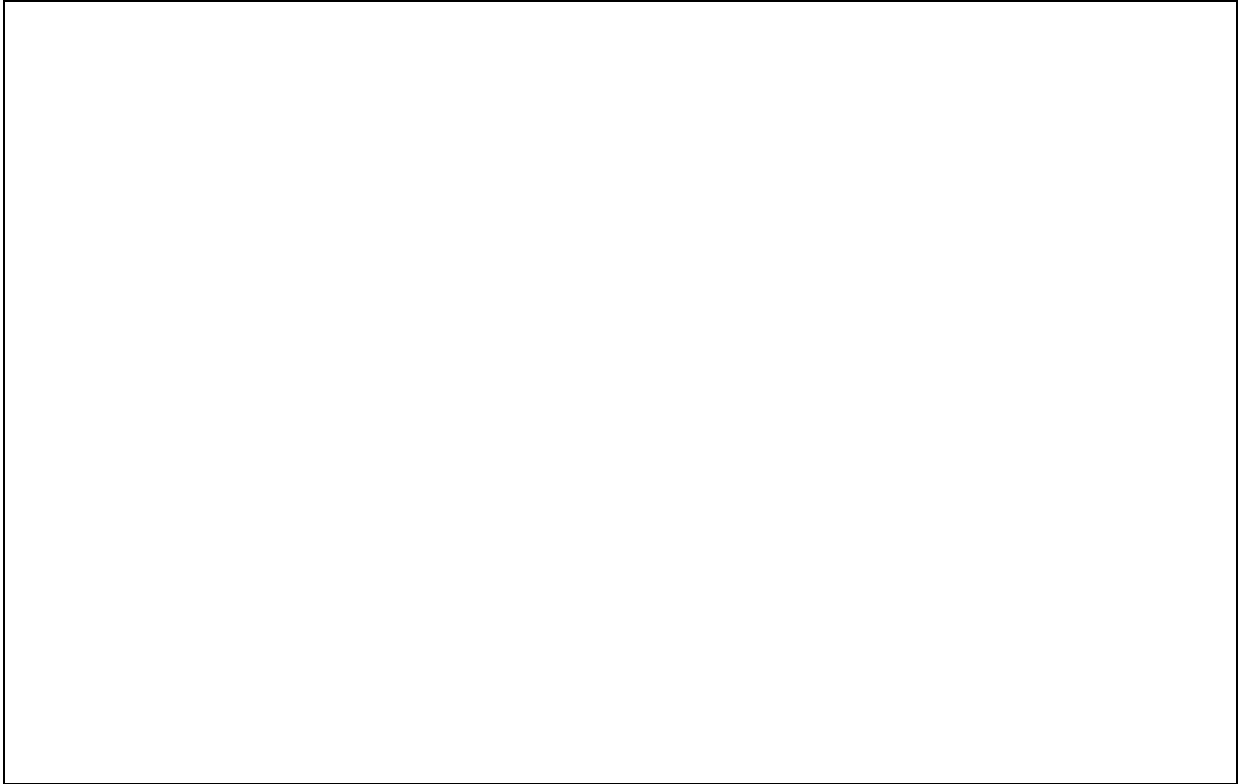
Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities (SA Scoping Report section 6)

SA4: Do you think there are any other sustainability issues or opportunities that need to be considered in the development of the plan?

SA5: Do you think any of the sustainability issues and opportunities require further explanation?

Sustainability Objectives, Indicators and Targets (SA Scoping Report section 7)

SA6: Do you agree with the targets and indicators?



SA7: Do you think any other targets and indicators should be included?



Additional Comments

The following space is provided for you to raise any other matters concerning the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Local Development Framework.

If your comment relates to a particular element of the Scoping Report or Technical Appendices please identify the Section Number (i.e. Section 1 – 15), the Paragraph Number, the Page Number or the Technical Appendix / Annex Number where relevant.

If you require additional space please photocopy this page and attach it when returning your Response Form.

Section Reference
Number

Paragraph Reference
Number

Scoping Report
Page Number

Technical Appendix /
Annex Number

Comments:

Recording the Responses Received

Please could you fill in the following details in order that your response can be recorded and processed efficiently and effectively.

Contact Name

Name of Organisation (if appropriate)

What happens next?

After the close of this consultation and participation stage on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Local Plan Review, the responses received will be used to inform the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary which will be published at the same time as the Local Plan Review Issues and Options Papers.

Stafford Borough Council will consider and publish the responses received to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report before publishing the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary.

Contact Details

If you wish your contact details to be recorded or amended on the Borough Council's Local Plan Review database please fill in the section below:

Contact Name:

Position (if applicable):

Organisation (if applicable):

Address:

.....

.....

.....

Postcode:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Further Information

Thank you for taking the time to complete this Response Form. The responses received will be considered in preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary for the Development Plan Documents. Under the Code of Practice of Open Government any responses received will be made available to the public.

Deadline for Responses: 12 noon on Wednesday 6 September 2017

Please send your comments via email at forwardplanning@staffordbc.gov.uk or alternatively to

**Forward Planning Team
Stafford Borough Council
Stafford
ST16 3AQ**

If you require any assistance or would like to discuss any of the questions in more detail please speak to one of the Forward Planning Team on 01785 619000

Data Protection Statement

All information submitted on this form will be available for public viewing. The information may be held on computer and on paper. It may be held, used and disclosed in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions under planning legislation, and in connection with the discharge of any planning power conferred upon the Council by other legislation.



Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner **STAFFORDSHIRE**

The Options: [\[FAQ's\]](#)

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 came into effect on 3 April 2017 and contains, among other things, a statutory duty for emergency services to collaborate and the opportunity for Police and Crime Commissioners to make a local case for taking on responsibility for the governance of their Fire and Rescue Services.

The Act is intended to accelerate the scale and pace of formal collaboration between emergency services, including sharing services as well as joint working.

The Business Case considers the four available options to increase collaborations between the police and fire services in Staffordshire. These are:

Option 1: No Change (to Current Governance): Police and Crime Commissioner ([PCC](#)) to continue to govern Police and the Fire and Rescue Authority ([FRA](#)) to continue to govern the Fire and Rescue Service. As with options 2 and 3 the Fire and Rescue Service and Police Services remain separate organisations.

Option 2: Representation Model: which enables the [PCC](#) to be part of the local Fire and Rescue Authority ([FRA](#)) with voting rights, where the local [FRA](#) agrees. As with options 1 and 3 the Fire and Rescue Service and Police Services remain separate organisations.

Option3: PCC Governance Model: where the [PCC](#) takes on the functions of the [FRA](#), but the two organisations remain separate. As with options 1 and 2 the Fire and Rescue Service and Police Services remain separate organisations.

Option 4: Single Employer Model: where a [PCC](#) not only takes on the functions of the [FRA](#), but is also able to create a single employer for police and fire personnel.

Supporting documents

[Business Case](#)

Please click [here](#) to hear the PCC explain it directly

A [message](#) from the PCC

[FAQ's](#)

[Summary of the Business Case](#)

FRA – The Fire and Rescue Authority is tasked with governing and overseeing the provision of fire and rescue services for Staffordshire. The FRA consists of 21 councillors appointed to the Fire and Rescue Authority by Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council to govern the Fire and Rescue Service as part of their duties as councillors. The number of Councillors from any political party on the Authority also has to reflect the political balance across Staffordshire County Council and Stoke City Council

PCC – A directly elected individual. The PCC is responsible for providing an efficient and effective police service for the communities of Staffordshire, setting the vision and direction for the police service and for community safety more generally. He has established an office that works beyond governance and scrutiny, to ensure that there is longer-term strategic direction around all aspects of policing and community safety and that in practical terms, the force (and other partners) are enabled or influenced to deliver.



Office of the Police and
Crime Commissioner
STAFFORDSHIRE

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you doing this... what's the point?

In the last few years, crime has changed. It's more complex because of technology and it's more international because of the internet. It means that whilst policing must still deal with burglary or antisocial behaviour and more, it must also adapt the way it works, day-to-day and strategically, to tackle new threats and keep us all safe.

The work of the fire service has also changed with fewer fires but new types of harm the service has developed the expertise and specialisms to deal with. The two services could, in future, work closer together to deliver their specific and their joint responsibilities more effectively. It would also mean more joint investment and joined up strategies to meet growing complexity and evolving threats.

Is this about more cuts?

Not exactly! There is less money but what is there could definitely still be spent better. Spending more of the money available on frontline policing and frontline fire services with a stronger focus on preventing harm before it happens is entirely possible. Part of that is freeing up extra investment for frontline delivery by combining the admin and support functions, such as HR, ICT and Finance, each emergency service currently has, into one function that supports both.

An independent assessment looked at all of this in Staffordshire and the report identified numerous opportunities to provide better value for the public and make people safer through the two services working together in a more organised way. It also found both services would be more financially secure, providing certainty and stability for the future with at least £3.6million extra each year being available for frontline delivery of both services.

What difference will the public see?

Very little with what each service does on an everyday basis. More policing in communities, the fire service being more visible and widening their expertise around safety and the prevention of harm while working in a more collaborative way with the police. I'd also expect to see more buildings having both fire and police in them so more of the money can be spent on frontline operations for both services in local areas across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

What will happen in the future?

If we make this change to governance it will help both services spend money in a better way so more can be spent on the services we see on our streets. I'm confident it will make frontline cuts less likely because it will mean more secure finances and should reduce the need for yet more big changes.

In short I want cops and firefighters to get on with their jobs with more resources available, without the shadow of more and more and more upheaval for years to come. That's my plan.

This consultation is about governance... why does it matter?

This is a bit dry if I'm honest! But it's important because the governance of a public service, in effect, is the big decision making about the way it works. It is also about overseeing what they do and how they do it... holding professionals to account on behalf of you, me and everyone else in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. If there are different governing bodies overseeing each of the services it makes it much more difficult to achieve what is needed. The independent report concludes the governance change is important.

Why will changing governance help services on the ground?

At the moment, 21 councillors from Stoke-on-Trent City and Staffordshire County Councils govern the fire service on a part time basis. They sit on something called the Fire and Rescue Authority which pays an annual allowance to all councillors.

Policing was governed in a similar way until 2013 when elected Police and Crime Commissioners took over responsibility. There is strong evidence elected PCCs have worked well so the Government has asked each Commissioner to consider bringing the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service in their area alongside that of policing governance.

Over the last year, the independent report about doing that in Staffordshire has been developed. Its findings are that bringing fire governance alongside policing, under the PCC, would improve the way the two services work together, speed up delivery of fresh ideas, be better value for public money and improve public accountability in the way it has done for policing. It would also save £2million over ten years on the current costs of councillor governance of fire.

Will there be job losses in the services?

Yes there would be some. Part of providing more money to frontline police and fire services for our communities would be bringing the two very similar admin and support functions each emergency service currently has, just a few miles apart, into one combined function both would use. This would be done carefully and compassionately in an agreed way.

What does it mean for council tax we pay towards police and fire locally?

As Police and Crime Commissioner I froze the amount we all pay locally towards policing for my first four years in Office. I was sure we could spend money better and promised I wouldn't ask local people for more until I was satisfied we were spending what we'd already got more efficiently.

Because of the current challenges faced around terrorism and new types of crime I did increase the part of the council tax people pay for policing in 2017 to provide extra funding for the capabilities police need in extreme, but unlikely, situations.

I'm not yet in a position to make any promises on the council tax which goes to fire but my instinct is to spend what's there better before asking you, me and everyone else to pay more.

How can fire officers do a police job and police do a fire job?

They shouldn't and won't. Yes, they can work better together but police will fight crime and fire fighters will fight fires. Their specialisms are vital and must be maintained but they can do many things in a more coordinated way.

Will all this save or cost money?

It is likely that some more savings will be needed by the Government. Doing what I am suggesting will minimise the impact on local services and will allow room for investment. At least £3.6million more each year will be available to front line services by doing what I am suggesting, including £200k annually on the current cost of fire service oversight and governance by councillors.

What do the people in the services think of this?

It's mixed. People are naturally suspicious about any change, most of us are. In reality, changing the governance so the two services work better together and are sustainable for the future should allow people to get on with their jobs with more certainty than they've had for a long time.

My strong sense from the police service is one of being positive about PCC governance... but of course they'll be different views. I'm consulting widely and it's important all have the opportunity to make their views known.

Will this affect pay or Terms & Conditions for people who work in each service?

Policing 'regs' as they are called are set nationally not locally for police officers. Fire officers Ts&Cs are also agreed nationally and I will NOT change that. Police and fire staff Ts&Cs are pretty similar and I would hope to work with unions and staff to tidy up any differences to make administering things easier. I do NOT foresee any fundamental or material changes.

Why aren't you doing the bigger change to single employer the report outlines?

This option would mean one Chief Officer running fire and police. Whilst the evidence suggests even more opportunities for efficiencies and better joint working I believe it is right to have a professional fire officer being responsible for the fire service and a professional police officer running the police service.... but working more closely together than ever before. I don't want to mix roles in that way.

Has this been done before?

The governance arrangements of PCCs for police services have worked well. Doing the same for the fire service here should be straightforward and provide new opportunities as well as freeing up investment for both services. There are eight PCCs who are looking at doing this currently.

Who is/will the PCC be responsible to?

I am responsible to everyone in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent whether they voted for me or not and every 3 months I appear for several hours before councillors from across the whole area on something called the Police and Crime Panel. It's a bit like a Select Committee in Parliament and they grill me on every aspect of everything I am doing on behalf of the public. The Law would require that panel to expand to cover work with the fire service too.

Since 2013 I have spoken at more than 400 public events and meetings and been face to face with over 20,000 people explaining where things are, and will be, in policing and criminal justice.

The media, national and local, are no strangers to the PCC office and provide scrutiny by the press and expert organisations. Contact from members of the public to my office are nearly 100 times more each week than the old Police Authority which was similar to the current Fire Authority.

National research suggests the accountability to the public the PCC role has brought to policing is effective and I have every reason to believe it would be as effective for fire governance.

Who makes the decision?

The 150 page independently developed business case will go to the Home Office. It will be assessed by approved experts and the Home Secretary will agree or not agree with our proposals.



Summary of the Business Case

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 came into effect on 3 April 2017 and contains, among other things, a statutory duty for emergency services to collaborate and the opportunity for Police and Crime Commissioners to make a local case for taking on responsibility for the governance of their Fire and Rescue Services. The Act is intended to accelerate the scale and pace of formal collaboration between emergency services, including sharing services as well as joint working. The opportunities for Fire and Police to collaborate more already exist today. The business case explores the likelihood of these taking place under each of the four options measured against an agreed criteria and summarised in table 1. In addition the financial benefits are summarised in table 2.

Table 1

Criteria	No Change to Current Governance	Representation	PCC Governance	Single Employer
Strategic Fit				
Public Safety				
Economy				
Efficiency				
Effectiveness				
Achievability				
Ranking	4 th	3 rd	1 st	2 nd

Table 2

	No Change to Current Governance	Representation	PCC Governance	Single Employer
Financial Savings	£million	£million	£million	£million
Savings over 10 Years	12.05	13.72	36.39	36.99
Difference from No Change to Governance	0.00	1.67	24.34	27.94
Average Savings Per Year	1.2	1.4	3.6	4.0
NPV over 10 Years (Net Present Value)	9.9	11.3	30.0	32.9

The fuller the circle, the better

If you would like any more information please click on any of the links below, these will open in a separate window.

Additional information

[Business Case](#)

Please click [here](#) to hear the PCC explain it directly

A [message](#) from the PCC

[FAQ's](#)

[The options](#)

Stone Town Council

Non-Cheque Payments

The table below lists all non-cheque payments made by the Council in the period since the last report, for the Committee's information.

The table includes payments by direct debit, 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. These excluded items can be seen by any Member on request.

Date	Reference	Supplier	Description	Amount
03/04/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£409.20
03/04/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Northesk Street Car Park	£104.69
03/04/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Stone Station Community Centre	£207.00
03/04/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£236.66
03/04/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Crown Street Car Park	£241.39
06/04/2017	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£17.95
12/04/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Electricity charges - Frank Jordan Centre	£434.06
18/04/2017	Tele/Bank	Sage software Ltd	Monthly instalment	£122.00
28/04/2017	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£79.72
02/05/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply Stone Station	£349.75
03/05/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Northesk Street Car Park	£105.00
03/05/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Stone Station Community Centre	£210.00
03/05/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£237.00
03/05/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£405.00
03/05/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Crown Street Car Park	£241.00
05/05/2017	D/Dbt	Francotyp Postalia	Postage	£200.00
08/05/2017	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£17.22
16/05/2017	D/Dbt	Sage software Ltd	Sage package	£1,012.00
26/05/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply Stone Station	£230.26
31/05/2017	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£61.07
05/06/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£405.00
05/06/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Stone Station Community Centre	£210.00
05/06/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Crown Street Car Park	£241.00
05/06/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Northesk Street Car Park	£105.00
05/06/2017	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£237.00
06/06/2017	D/Dbt	Francotyp Postalia	Postage	£200.00
06/06/2017	D/Dbt	EE & T Mobile	Caretakers phone	£17.65
08/06/2017	D/Dbt	BT Business	Broadband payment	£223.20
21/06/2017	Tele/Bank	Panda Press	Posters/ banner/ late night shop/ music festival	£425.00
21/06/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Stone Station	£115.03
23/06/2017	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Frank Jordan Centre	£1,087.88
26/06/2017	D/Dbt	Network Rail	Rent of Stone Station 24 06 17 - 28 09 17	£987.50
30/06/2017	D/Dbt	Bank charges	Bank charge	£64.47