



Please ask for: Matt Berry
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8 July 2026

Dear Councillor,

Cabinet

6:00pm on Thursday 16 July 2026

Meeting to be held in the Esperance Room, Civic Centre, Cannock

You are invited to attend this meeting for consideration of the matters itemised in the following Agenda.

Yours sincerely,

T. Clegg
Chief Executive

To:

Councillors:

Jones, P.	Leader of the Council and Regeneration and Corporate Strategy Portfolio Leader
Craddock, R.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Regulatory Services and Sustainability Portfolio Leader
Jeffery, G.	Community Safety and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Mandry, R.	Housing and Corporate Assets Portfolio Leader
Parkes, J.	Operational Services and Parks Portfolio Leader
Deakin, M.	Leisure, Culture and Heritage Portfolio Leader
Bell, M.	Resources and Corporate Services Portfolio Leader

Agenda

Part 1

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

To declare any interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct and any possible contraventions under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

3. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2026 (enclosed).

4. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

To receive oral updates (if any), from the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader, and Portfolio Leaders.

5. Forward Plan

Forward Plan of Decisions for July to September 2026 (Item 5.1 - 5.3).

6. Housing Board Minutes

To note the Minutes of the Housing Board meeting held on 27 May 2026 (Item 6.1 – 6.9).

7. Housing Services – Quarter 4 Performance Report 2025/26

Report of the Head of Housing and Corporate Assets (Item 7.1 – 7.30).

8. Proposed New Surcharges for Development Management Services

Report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning (Item 8.1 – 8.7).

9. Local Plan Regulation 20 Scoping Consultation

Report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning (Item 9.1 – 9.106).

10. Permission to Spend – Local Improvement Framework Funding

Report of the Head of Wellbeing (Item 10.1 – 10.5).

11. Cannock Chase Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-28

Report of the Head of Wellbeing (Item 11.1 – 11.50).

12. Revenues and Benefits Collection Report – Quarter 4 2025/26

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive-Resources (Item 12.1 – 12.6).

The appendix to the report (Item 12.6) is confidential due to the inclusion of:

- Information relating to any individual and which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person.

Cannock Chase Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the

Cabinet

Held on Thursday 11 June 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

In the Esperance Room, Civic Centre, Cannock

Part 1

Present:

Councillors:

P. Jones	Leader of the Council and Regeneration and Corporate Strategy Portfolio Leader
R. Craddock	Deputy Leader of the Council and Regulatory Services and Sustainability Portfolio Leader
G. Jeffery	Community Safety and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
R. Mandry	Housing and Corporate Assets Portfolio Leader
M. Deakin	Leisure, Culture and Heritage Portfolio Leader
J. Parkes	Operational Services and Parks Portfolio Leader
M. Bell	Resources and Corporate Services Portfolio Leader

The meeting was being recorded in accordance with Section 40 of the Council's Constitution, specifically the Protocol for Recording, Filming and social media at Meetings.

1. Apologies

None received.

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

None received.

3. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

No updates were provided.

4. Forward Plan

Resolved:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period April to June 2026 (Item 5.1 - 5.2) be noted.

5. Recommendation Referred from the Health, Wellbeing and The Community Scrutiny Committee

Consideration was given to the recommendation referred for the Health, Wellbeing and The Community Scrutiny Committee made at its meeting held on 17 March 2026 as set out at agenda item 5 of the Cabinet meeting agenda.

Resolved:

That the Housing Services' Fencing Policy, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the 17 March 2026 report to the Health, Wellbeing and The Community Scrutiny Committee be approved.

6. End of Year Performance Report 2025/26

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Business Support and Assurance (Item 6.1 – 6.33).

Resolved:

That the progress at the end of the 2025/26 related to the delivery of the Council's priorities and the corrective action as detailed in report appendices 1a-1d and the performance information as set out in report appendix 2, be noted.

Reason for Decision:

The performance information allowed Cabinet to monitor progress in delivery of the Council's corporate priorities and operational services.

7. Updated Strategic Risk Register

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Business Support and Assurance (Item 7.1 – 7.39).

Resolved:

That:

(A) The Strategic Risk Register, as set out in report appendix 2, be approved.

(B) The progress made in the identification and management of the strategic risks be noted.

Reason for Decisions:

Cabinet was required to approve the Strategic Risk Register.

8. Governance Improvement Plan – Progress Report for 2025/26

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Business Support and Assurance (Item 8.1 – 8.18).

Resolved:

That consideration of the report be deferred to the next Cabinet meeting on 16 July 2026.

9. Housing Services – Quarter 4 Performance Report 2025/26

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing and Corporate Assets (Item 9.1 – 9.30).

Resolved:

That consideration of the report be deferred to the next Cabinet meeting on 16 July 2026.

10. Cabinet Representatives on Outside Bodies for 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive (Item 10.1 – 10.4)

Resolved:

That:

- (A) The appointment of Cabinet representatives to outside bodies for 2026/27, as set out in report appendix 1, be approved.
- (B) The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make appointments to additional outside bodies and amendments to existing outside bodies, as necessary, throughout the municipal year, that would otherwise be determined by Cabinet.

Reasons for Decisions:

To reflect the wishes of the Cabinet as to which Members it wished to appoint to those outside bodies listed in appendix 1 of the report.

Cabinet was also requested to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make appointments to any additional bodies and amend existing appointments during the year.

11. Proposed Direct Action on Non-compliance with Section 215 Notices and High Hedges Remediation Notices and Other Measures

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning (Item 11.1 – 11.12).

Resolved:

That:

- (A) The use of direct action to address breaches of planning control through Section 215 or High Hedges Remediation Notices or other measures to secure necessary improvements and remediation be approved.
- (B) The Direct Action Protocol 2026, as set out in report appendix 1, be approved and adopted.
- (C) The Head of Economic Development and Planning, in liaison with the Regeneration and Corporate Strategy Portfolio Leader, be authorised to develop and implement the process to inform prioritisation of projects to benefit from direct action.
- (D) The Head of Economic Development and Planning and the Section 151 Officer, in liaison with the Regeneration and Corporate Strategy Portfolio Leader, be authorised to approve funding toward priority projects requiring direct action.

Reasons for Decisions:

Cannock Chase Council had the ability to enforce complaints through powers contained in the Town and Country Planning Acts and Anti-Social Behaviour Act, however, it was a discretionary service and one that was not currently funded. As complaints escalated, this resulted in increased pressure and expectation that the Council would take action.

12. Proposed New Surcharges for Development Management Services

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning (Item 12.1 – 12.7).

Resolved:

That consideration of the report be deferred to the next Cabinet meeting on 16 July 2026.

13. Adoption of the Cannock Chase Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document and Revocation of Additional Supplementary Planning Documents

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning (Item 13.1 – 13.112).

Resolved:

That:

- (A) The Cannock Chase Local Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document, as set out in report appendix 1, be adopted.
- (B) Authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning for any minor changes to the Supplementary Planning Document, and to publish an Adoption Statement and any other requirements in accordance with Section 114 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- (C) The existing Supplementary Planning Documents that were no longer required be revoked, including:
 - (i) Parking Standards, Travel Plans and Developer Contributions for Sustainable Travel Supplementary Planning Document (July 2005).
 - (ii) Pye Green Valley Brief (December 2005).
 - (iii) Rugeley Power Station Supplementary Planning Document (including adoption statement, consultation statement and SEA HRA Screening Report).
 - (iv) Land West of Pye Green Road Development Brief (March 2011) (and associated documents).
- (D) Authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning to publish a statement of that fact (revocation of Supplementary Planning Documents) and any other requirements in accordance with Section 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Reasons for Decisions:

The National Planning Policy Framework (2024) placed a strong emphasis on the creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places. The NPPF stated that Plans should, at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applications had as much certainty as possible about what was likely to be acceptable and that to provide maximum clarity about design expectations at an early stage. All local planning authorities should prepare design guides or codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, and which reflected local character and design preferences.

The Cannock Chase Local Plan 2018-2040 which included Policy SO1.2: Enhancing the Quality of the Built Environment indicated the requirement for development proposals to demonstrate conformity to Local Plan Policies and the relevant Local Design Guide, there were additional policies that made reference to the requirement to consider the Local Design Guide.

The current Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted in 2016 and the Parking Standards, Travel Plans and Developer Contributions for Sustainable Transport SPD was adopted in 2005. The proposed Local Design Guide SPD to support the Cannock Chase Local Plan 2018-2040 would supersede both of these documents whilst retaining the Character Area Descriptions adopted through the 2016 Design SPD.

Plan-Making Reforms introduced through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, and the Planning Infrastructure Act transitional arrangements for SPDs stated that they would remain in force until planning authorities adopted a new style local plan or minerals and waste plan. It also identified that the final adoption date for new SPDs would be 30 June 2026, to ensure any advanced emerging SPD could be adopted. The adoption of the Local Design Guide SPD incorporating the Parking Standards was required to support the application of Policies within the Local Plan 2018-2040 and guide design within the District. In addition, the format of the document had been updated to improve ease of use and new and additional illustrations had been added.

The Council had a number of currently adopted SPDs that were no longer relevant to Plan Making and it was recommended that whilst the existing Design Guide was to be superseded by the new Design Guide that the Council took the opportunity to revoke those SPDs no longer required, this would ensure that the planning advice being provided by the Council remained streamlined and relevant.

14. Commencement of New Local Plan for Cannock Chase District

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning (Item 14.1 – 14.10).

Resolved:

That:

- (A) The commencement of a new Local Plan, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 be approved.
- (B) The submission of the Notice to Commence Plan-making and publication to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government be approved.
- (C) The Local Plan timetable as detailed in report appendix 1 be approved, and submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and publication on the Council's website be approved.
- (D) Authority be delegated to Head of Economic Development and Planning, in liaison with the Regeneration and Corporate Strategy Portfolio Leader, to update and publish the Local Plan timetable on a monthly or other period required by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

- (E) Authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning, in liaison with the Regeneration and Corporate Strategy Portfolio Leader, to approve, submit and publish documents required for Gateway 1 self-assessment, Gateway 2 and Gateway 3 as set out in Regulations 21, 26 and 31-33 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

Reasons for Decisions:

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) placed a statutory duty on Local Planning Authorities to have an up-to-date Local Plan. Cannock Chase recently adopted a new Local Plan; however a new plan would need to be undertaken, and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 provided the framework for the process of preparing a Local Plan.

The Cannock Chase Local Plan 2018-2040 was adopted by the Council on 23 March 2026 and was examined under the September 2023 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) under transitional arrangements in advance of the 2024 NPPF. Where a Local Plan had recently been adopted that did not meet 80% of the local housing need under the 2024 NPPF standard method (as in Cannock Chase's case), a notice to Commence Plan Making had to be published by 30 June 2026 and plan-making commenced by 31 October 2026.

The timetable for preparation of a new Local Plan had also changed in that following a successful outcome of the Gateway 1, the Council would then need to enter the prescribed 30-month plan-making period. In order to meet this timetable, the report requested a number of delegations by Cabinet to allow the plan to proceed in line with statutory requirements.

15. Revenues and Benefits Collection Report – Quarter 4 2025/26

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive-Resources (Item 15.1 – 15.6).

Resolved:

That consideration of the report be deferred to the next Cabinet meeting on 16 July 2026.

Meeting closed at 6.22pm

Leader

Cabinet Appointed Representatives to Outside Bodies for 2026-27

Notes:

- All the below listed positions are appointed on an annual basis at the first Cabinet meeting after Annual Council.
- All bodies have one seat available unless otherwise stated.

Name of Body	Appointed Representatives
Cannock Chase National Landscape Joint Management Committee	Operational Services and Parks Portfolio Leader Substitute: Regulatory Services and Sustainability Portfolio Leader
Local Government Association General Assembly	Leader of the Council Substitute: Deputy Leader of the Council
Local Strategic Partnership (Chase Community Partnership)	• Leader of the Council • Community Safety and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader • Housing and Corporate Assets Portfolio Leader • Operational Services and Parks Portfolio Leader • Leader of the Opposition
Norton Canes Community Partnership	Community Safety and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) Joint Committee	Operational Services and Parks Portfolio Leader
Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee	Operational Services and Parks Portfolio Leader
Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership	Regeneration and Corporate Strategy Portfolio Leader (or Head of Economic Development & Planning as nominee)
Staffordshire Police, Fire, and Crime Panel	Community Safety and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader Substitute: Operational Services and Parks Portfolio Leader
Staffordshire Sustainability Board	Regulatory Services and Sustainability Portfolio Leader Substitute: Operational Services and Parks Portfolio Leader
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association	Operational Services and Parks Portfolio Leader
West Midlands Employers	Leader of the Council

Forward Plan of Decisions to be taken by the Cabinet: July to September 2026

For Cannock Chase Council, a key decision is as an Executive decision that is likely to:

- Result in the Council incurring expenditure or making savings at or above a threshold of 0.5% of the gross turnover of the Council.
- Affect communities living or working in two or more Council Wards.

Representations in respect of any of matters detailed below should be sent in writing to the contact officer indicated alongside each item via email to membersservices@cannockchasedc.gov.uk.

Copies of non-confidential items will be published on the Council's website 5 clear working days prior to the relevant meeting date.

Item	Contact Officer / Cabinet Member	Date of Cabinet	Key Decision	Confidential Item	Reasons for Confidentiality	Representations Received
July 2026						
Local Plan Regulation 20 Scoping Consultation	Head of Economic Development and Planning / Regeneration and Corporate Strategy Portfolio Leader	16/07/26	Yes	No	N/A	N/A
Proposed New Surcharges for Development Management Services	Head of Economic Development and Planning / Regeneration and Corporate Strategy Portfolio Leader	16/07/26	Yes	No	N/A	N/A
Housing Services Q4 End of Year Performance Report 2025/26	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets/ Housing and Corporate Assets Portfolio Leader	16/07/26	No	No	N/A	N/A
Permission to Spend – Local Improvement Framework Funding	Head of Wellbeing / Community Safety and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader	16/07/26	No	No	N/A	N/A
Cannock Chase Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-28	Head of Wellbeing / Community Safety and Wellbeing Leader	16/07/26	No	No	N/A	N/A

Item	Contact Officer / Cabinet Member	Date of Cabinet	Key Decision	Confidential Item	Reasons for Confidentiality	Representations Received
Revenues and Benefits Collection Report – Q4	Deputy Chief Executive – Resources / Resources and Corporate Services Portfolio Leader	16/07/26	No	Yes (Appendix only)	Information relating to any individual and likely to reveal the identity of an individual. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council).	N/A
August 2026						
Cannock Town Centre Regeneration Options	Head of Economic Development and Planning / Regeneration and Corporate Strategy Portfolio Leader	20/08/26	Yes	No	N/A	N/A
Complaints Monitoring 2025/26	Head of Law and Governance / Resources and Corporate Services Portfolio Leader	20/08/26	No	No	N/A	N/A
Housing Services Annual Complaints Performance and Service Improvement Report and Self-Assessment	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets / Housing and Corporate Assets Portfolio leader	20/08/26	No	No	N/A	N/A
Museum of Cannock Chase Update	Head of Wellbeing / Leisure, Culture and Heritage Portfolio Leader	20/08/26	No	No	N/A	N/A
Housing Services – Work Plan and Quarter 1 Performance Report 2026/27	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets / Housing and Corporate Assets Portfolio Leader	20/08/26	No	No	N/A	N/A
Hemlock Farmhouse	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets / Housing and Corporate Assets Portfolio leader	20/08/26	No	No	N/A	N/A

Item	Contact Officer / Cabinet Member	Date of Cabinet	Key Decision	Confidential Item	Reasons for Confidentiality	Representations Received
Cotswold Road Play Area Improvements	Head of Operations / Operational Services and Parks, Portfolio Leader	20/08/26	No	No	N/A	N/A
Climate Action Plans 2026/27	Head of Regulatory Services / Regulatory Services and Sustainability Portfolio Leader	20/08/26	No	No	N/A	N/A
September 2026						
Quarter 1 Performance Report 2026/27	Head of Business Support and Assurance / Resources and Corporate Services Portfolio Leader	15/09/26	No	No	N/A	N/A
Updated Strategic Risk Register	Head of Business Support and Assurance / Resources and Corporate Services Portfolio Leader	15/09/26	No	No	N/A	N/A

Cannock Chase Council
Minutes of the Housing Board
Held on Wednesday 27 May 2026 at 10:00am
In the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock

Present:

Board Members:

Councillors:

P. Jones Leader of the Council and Chair of the Housing Board

Tenant and Leasehold Members:

N. Howells Council tenant

B. Murphy Council tenant

G. Pace Council tenant

Independent Members:

S. Johnson Director of Governance and Legal, whg

A. Kenny Former Executive Director of Property, Housing Plus

Also Present:

Officers:

T. Clegg Chief Executive

C. Forrester Deputy Chief Executive-Resources & S151 Officer

N Samrai Head of Housing and Corporate Assets

R. Frumenzi Housing Maintenance Manager

L. Tandy Housing Services Manager

E. Norwood Assistant Housing Property Services Manager

B. Wildey Assistant Tenancy Services Manager

J. Morgan Assistant Housing Services Manager

M. Berry Democratic Services Team Leader

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted for:

- Councillor R. Mandry, Housing and Corporate Assets Portfolio Leader and Vice-Chair of the Board.
- G. Stott – Deputy Chief Executive-Place
- H. Campbell – Tenancy Services Manager
- C. Hawkins – Housing Property Services Manager
- L. Cunnett - Homes Manager, Tamworth Borough Council (Independent Member)

2. Previous Minutes and Action Tracker

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 January 2026 were agreed and the action tracker noted.

3. Housing Services Improvement Plan – Quarter 4 / Year End for 2025/26

An Independent Member requested that for the next meeting, an update be provided on all items on the action tracker not marked as completed *(Clarification – uncompleted actions from the 25/26 Plan will move onto 26/27 Plan where not superseded or not prioritised. 26/27 Plan is on agenda for next meeting.)* The Head of Housing and Corporate Assets informed that the 25/26 Plan had been very ambitious and resources had not allowed for the completion of all items, therefore some prioritisation of actions has had to be done.

The Board subsequently went through in turn each of the actions marked with a red cross, with specific updates and comments/questions raised as follows:

- Item 3 – ‘develop a rolling programme of planned improvements from the stock condition survey data and report on progress to the Housing Board.’

The Assistant Housing Property Services Manager advised that the properties not surveyed by the external consultants due to non-access were now being dealt with in-house and it was aimed for the full survey to be completed by the Autumn 2026, although hopefully sooner. A data officer was in place to review the survey results received so far and input them into the system on a daily basis.

In response to a query from an Independent Member as to whether ‘data cloning’ would be used for those properties where access could not be gained, the Assistant Housing Property Services Manager advised this would not be the case as the opportunity was being taken to bolt-on to gas safety checks that had to be done on all properties to ensure access could be gained.

The Head of Housing and Corporate Assets further advised that having spoken with the Council’s legal services team, in instances where access had been refused when gas safety and other checks were required, the Council would potentially look at seeking injunctions to gain access but had not got to that stage yet.

- Item 4 iii) – ‘data governance policy/data strategy’

An Independent Member raised concern about non-compliance with meeting regulatory standards in this regard and the non-appointment of the staff post. The Housing Services Manager advised that work on this would continue to be covered by the interim arrangements in place.

- Item 4 iv) – ‘performance reporting framework; and KPI definition document’

The Head of Housing and Corporate Assets advised that the associated post had been recruited to and so it was hoped this action could be progressed moving forwards (Clarification – the KPI definition document was completed and presented to Board at the previous meeting; the PRF is still to be completed).

- Item 5 i) – ‘review and develop written procedures for existing process in the HRA, including commercial properties (HRA shops)’.

The Head of Housing and Corporate Assets advised that there were 22 or 23 commercial units beneath flatted lets. The leases of these units had been reviewed and required update as they were quite antiquated. Work had been going on with shop owners over the last year to get compliance checks done and records updated.

In response to a query from an Independent Member as to whether the shop owners had engaged with the Council, the Assistant Housing Property Services Manager advised that engagement had been mixed, with some raising concern about power to their properties being switched off. The legal requirements of the checks being done were however explained to them and so it had been a successful project overall.

The Independent Member then asked that it be checked if gas safety checks undertaken on the residential flats had picked up any issues for the commercial units.

In response to a query from a Tenant Member as to whether tenants were liable for damage to the commercial units from issues within their own properties, the Assistant Housing Property Services Manager confirmed that this was the case, hence why the ownership of the commercial units had been transferred to the Housing service.

- Item 5 ii) – ‘ensure NEC system holds records of information and ability to report on performance against the process’.

The Head of Housing and Corporate Assets advised that the NEC system was currently being reviewed with the interim team leader looking to see how officers could get the best out of the system.

- Item 5 iii) – ‘programme of inspections to be established and completed’.

The Head of Housing and Corporate Assets advised that this linked to the work undertaken for item 5.i).

- Item 7 – ‘review of HRA reserves to fund planned maintenance, compliance and works arising from the stock condition survey’.

The Deputy Chief Executive-Resources advised that substantial work had been done on developing the new 30-year business plan, with the first draft received from Savills and populated with the required information. Furthermore, the 2025/26 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn was being worked on presently, so once all the relevant data had been pulled together it was hoped to have the final plan in place later this year.

In response to a query from an Independent Member as to whether there were any concerns from the data so far, the Deputy Chief Executive-Resources advised that the main concerns were sector-wide issues such as ageing stock, lack of funding etc.

- Item 10 ii) – ‘incorporate into capital programme of upgrade work and develop KPIs to add to performance’.

The Assistant Housing Property Services Manager advised that officers were identifying opportunities to provide properties with loft insulation, solar panels, new heating systems etc., specifically looking to do such works on properties at the same time. Furthermore, Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) would also be produced for properties where they had expired or were due within the next two years.

- Item 17 iii) (amber triangle rated) – ‘explore external audit of Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) management performance information’.

In response to a query from an Independent Member as to whether any data validation would be done before the deadline, the Assistant Housing Services Manager advised that it would be unlikely for this year due to the timescale (required by 30 June) but certainly intended for next year.

- Item 19 i) – ‘reduce average re-let times for empty properties’.

The Housing Maintenance Manager advised that last year had been challenging for voids works as a large number had involved major works investment and also impacted by the

condition that some properties were being returned in. Minor works had been kept a hold of, and whilst the year-end figure was slightly above target, the quarter four figure was below it. An average of ten voids were now held at any one time which would allow more focus to be given on major works.

Lots of major works still had to be done, but the team was looking at how to manage these better to stop target times getting out of control. Additionally, some works in the previous quarter had been impacted by waiting for external contractors to come in and do works.

- Item 20 i) – ‘review existing contract with grounds maintenance team’.

The Assistant Tenancy Services Manager advised that the new specification was now completed and so the Streetscene Manager just needed to complete their required element of the work, with a meeting scheduled next week to discuss.

The Head of Housing and Corporate Assets further advised that the budget set was a historical one for the in-house team and they were not necessarily looking for a reduction because they were being told the costs were out of date and had not been increased. The consultants found that the specification was ok, but not the resources within the team to deliver it, so that was the issue being picked up with the Streetscene Manager.

A Tenant Member noted that the perception from residents was around the quality of the works undertaken rather than the costs, so they would notice if the quality went down.

- Item 20 ii) – ‘complete joint estate inspections, to cover...’.

The Assistant Tenancy Services Manager advised that the neighbourhood teams carried out estate walks and invited the tree officer along to record what works needed doing on trees on the estates. There was a five-year tree survey on housing land which it was understood would be reviewed this year (Clarification – bin stores was the only outstanding element of the inspections to resolve).

- Item 22 iii) – ‘hold an initial community day’.

The Head of Housing and Corporate Assets advised that this was for the Carfax estate, with the Housing Property Services (HPS) and Tenancy Services teams tasked with holding a community clean-up day with partners. However, a number of repairs had been identified on the estate which needed doing before the community day could happen.

In response to a query from the Chair as to whether communication happened with tenants there, the Assistant Tenancy Services Manager advised that they were looking to do a residents’ survey in conjunction with the HPS team to see what tenants wanted.

4. Key Performance Indicators 2025/26

The Housing Maintenance Manager referred to his answer given in the previous agenda item regarding the re-let time for void properties, noting that for April 2026, the average re-let time had reduced to 20.83 days for minor works and 42 days for major works, with the focus being on maintaining that performance going forward. The Head of Housing and Corporate Assets caveated that there were two long-standing void properties carried over from last year that required a lot of work to be done so this would affect the overall figures.

An Independent Member asked if two sets of figures could be reported that showed the long-term voids separately so as not to negatively skew the overall figures. The Housing Maintenance Manager advised that this was already done in the background so would be easy to include in future reports. (ACTION)

In respect of the TSM of ‘percentage of non-emergency repairs completed within provider timescales’ being set at 75%, an Independent Member raised that this seemed extremely low and asked if officers were comfortable with a 25% failure rate. In response, the Housing

Maintenance Manager advised that this target could be reviewed if it was considered to be too low. The Assistant Housing Services Manager further advised that the 2026/27 targets were discussed at the previous meeting and so would check if this specific target score had been changed (*Clarification – target set at 80% for 26/27, so has been increased*).

5. Compliance Update

The Assistant Housing Property Services Manager updated the Board on compliance work in respect of the following:

- Gas servicing
- Alternative Heating Services
- Electrical Testing
- Lifting equipment
- Asbestos

A Tenant Member raised that following 'asbestos management surveys' for properties being mentioned at the previous meeting, one specific property had received four different asbestos surveys within the past six weeks for four separate reasons, and so queried what the cost had been to the Council over the past year for these audits being done as they were completed by an external contractor, and what was the trigger for an audit being requested in the first place?

In response, the Assistant Housing Property Services Manager advised that in the scenario described, it sounded like there had been a duplication of work with a mix of planned and day-to-day maintenance going on. In terms of requiring a survey for the specific works required, it was likely that the property concerned did not have a high enough level of detail available on record and therefore new surveys were necessary. If no information was available, then the surveys had to be done so as not to put tenants or staff at risk.

- Water Hygiene

In response to a query from the Chair as to whether all information in this regard was documented as it should be, the Assistant Housing Property Services Manager confirmed that this was the case, with a full audit trail in place.

- Fire Safety

In response to a query from the Chair regarding reviews of the communal blocks, the Assistant Tenancy Services Manager advised that reviews were undertaken on a weekly basis.

An Independent Member noted that the direction of travel on completing associated actions did not seem to have really moved since the last audit was completed – a fuller explanation on the outstanding actions to be provided for the next meeting. (ACTION)

- Building Safety Audits

In response to a query from an Independent Member regarding timescales for completion of these audits, the Assistant Housing Property Services Manager advised he did not have a definitive date to hand but could check and report back separately. (ACTION)

The Housing Maintenance Manager then reported on the compliance update for damp and mould works.

A Tenant Member raised concern about the different types of asbestos in tenants' properties and so asked if different types of treatments were used depending on the issue being dealt

with. In response, the Housing Maintenance Manager advised that the scope of works required would be decided by the surveyor who visited the properties to assess the issues and what types of works were needed.

Another Tenant Member raised concern about the number of damp and mould complaints received and asked how many were repeat complaints. In response, the Head of Housing and Corporate Assets advised that the Council took a proactive approach as a landlord by directly asking tenants if they had any damp and mould in their properties, along with undertaking a social media campaign and putting livery on the side of the Council's vehicles to promote reporting of such issues. Under Awaab's law, the Council had to encourage reporting, and whilst the size of the respective team had not increased in number, a specialist team leader was in place for this work. The Assistant Property Services Manager further advised that it had to be borne in mind that further issues may come forward from the remaining stock condition surveys.

In response to a query from an Independent Member as to whether the figure for the total number of remaining live cases and the percentage of completed Awaab's law cases contradicted one another, the Housing Maintenance Manager advised that the first point was perhaps not worded correctly, but the figure for Awaab's law related to follow-on inspections of completed jobs, live cases are those not yet attended due to access.

6. Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Standards Self-Assessment

The Housing Services Manager advised that all housing managers had undertaken the self-assessment exercise and whilst some strengths had been identified, other areas required some work. A 'critical friend' would be appointed to further assess any identified strengths and weaknesses to help prepare for a future inspection by the regulator.

An Independent Member raised that it was pleasing to see the self-assessment work reported to the Board, but the way the information was presented had caused some confusion about what the Council's actual position was. In response, the Housing Services Manager advised that it was possibly not quite compliant, with the self-assessment exercise proving useful for managers, but having the critical friend come in would be a big help.

The Independent Member further raised that reassurance was sought about compliance, so it would hoped that the third-party input would help with this.

7. Housing Complaints Policy and Housing Ombudsman Review

The Assistant Housing Services Manager advised that the Housing Ombudsman had reviewed all local authority social housing landlords' complaints procedures following 2024/25 self-assessment returns. As a result of this work, the Council's own corporate policy was found to be non-compliant. The team had already been working on a separate Housing policy and that work had now been completed, with the new version published on the website. The Ombudsman had since confirmed that the new policy was compliant.

Raised by Lucy Cunnett, Independent Member prior to the meeting: In relation to the 'culture of complaints', could the board be given some reassurance that the updated information is provided to all customer facing staff not only managers as these staff members are often dealing on front end of the complaints process where this information to be able to advise customers correctly can be given.

Response – We can confirm all customer facing staff will be provided the information. A briefing session to all managers and complaint responding officers will initially be held and then information will be filtered down. All staff will need to understand the new policy/procedure and filter service requests/complaints to the correct place.

8. Tenant Satisfaction Measures 2025/26 Survey Results

The Assistant Housing Services Manager advised that the full results had been provided to the Board in their agenda pack, but the overall results showed that all bar two of the reported Tenant Satisfaction Measures had improved when compared with 2024/25.

In response to an Independent Member as to whether the Council was going to publicise to tenants what actions would be taken to improve the lower scoring measures, the Assistant Housing Services Manager confirmed this would be the case and the relevant information published on the website.

9. Review of the Housing Board's Performance and Fulfilment of Terms of Reference

The following feedback was provided:

Tenant Members

- Felt that tenant members had not achieved what they wanted to in the role.
- Initially, no outline was provided about what the Board would do or how it would work, so consideration was needed as to what adjustments could be made, such as having smaller meetings with only people the Board definitely needed to see being present.
- A TPAS representative attended the first meeting to help guide the work of the Board and advised that the original membership was not set in stone and could evolve. Therefore, could the Board look at how other similar bodies operated?

The Head of Housing and Corporate Assets advised that attendance at Board meetings by service managers had been requested by an Independent Member to answer specific questions, but this could be reviewed. Southwark Council was leading on a piece of work about housing boards and 17 other councils were part of that group, so the suggestion of seeing how others worked could be raised with them.

- Having pre-meetings with the Assistant Housing Services Manager had been helpful.
- Still a lack of clarity about what the Board wanted from tenant members, specifically around their role and what was expected of them.

The Head of Housing and Corporate Assets advised this would be discussed separately with officers, but it was expected tenant members would ask questions about performance improvement etc (Clarification – Assistant Housing Services Manager will send Tenant Board members some further information and they can discuss at their next pre-meeting).

Independent Members

- As an overall observation, starting a new Board from scratch meant that it took time to get used to knowing how things ran, what information was being presented, how the Council performed and operated and how it delivered its housing services.
- Looking ahead, there would be the challenge of the terms of office of the current Independent and Tenant Members all ending at the same time, so thought needed giving to succession planning.
- Had been able to influence what information was presented to the Board, and officers were responsive when additional information was being asked for.
- It would be interesting to know what officers thought about how the Board had worked and a gap analysis undertaken of the terms of reference. (ACTION)

- Regular monitoring of the housing improvement plan and performance reports had been helpful, whereas today's meeting was the really the first one at which compliance with the regulatory standards had been considered.
- As per the terms of reference, consider whether fair and equitable outcomes were being achieved for all tenants and prospective tenants, in accordance with the Council's equality and diversity policy.
- More thought needed to ensure outcomes were being achieved, perhaps by doing a short review at the end of each meeting.
- Challenging to prepare for meetings because of the limited technology the Council had available (i.e., no management system for Board papers). It was felt that better use should be made of adding comments to shared PDF documents as it was appreciated the Council could not necessarily purchase a full software system. *(Clarification – members permissions on SharePoint to be upgraded to 'edit' so they can all add comments to documents).*
- It felt like several items listed in the terms of reference had not been done, but this was difficult to achieve when the Board only quarterly.
- Whilst it was not being suggested to have more meetings, thought should be given to the timings of items and dealing with clarification points outside of the meeting.

The Chief Executive raised that the Board meetings had been very valuable and it had been difficult to start with an entirely new Board where the representatives did not know each other, but attendance had been good and input positive.

Having three different Chairs in the space of five meetings also had to be considered, and the impact that had through a lack of continuity and relationship with the rest of the Board and the Cabinet. As such, thought may be needed about how to get key messages across and feedback from the Cabinet about what they had found useful.

It may be helpful a future meeting to look ahead twelve months for what the Board wanted to focus on, what was most valuable and how to balance discussion on those items with what officers wanted to present. The Board also needed to keep in mind that a regulatory inspection would happen in due course.

- The terms of reference also noted that two extra meetings were expected to be held each year for the purposes of team building, learning and development etc. *(Clarification – Away day would be arranged in between meetings if possible. Gap analysis between ToR could be looked at in more detail).*
- When thinking in terms of timeframes rather than number of meetings, the Board had achieved a lot so far.
- Would like to see other colleagues attend to understand what they did.
- Did not necessarily want to wait until the next quarter for updates on specific items.

Raised by Lucy Cunnett, Independent Member prior to the meeting:

- *Although we are an 'advisory' board only, if there are policies/ decisions to be reviewed that comments from the board can be added to these in a more formal way. We are consulted as a board and are provided with a wealth of information, however I would find it even more fulfilling if my/ the boards comments were recorded on reports then sent onto cabinet. This may mean fewer agenda items for our sessions and a way of either recording individual board member comments or a collect comment decided upon via a vote, but I do feel this will allow members to see that onward purpose of the board.*

- *Moving forward suggest we should be more focused on areas which are flagging from the KPI's for example void turnaround times and options presented to the board for consideration with an action plan agreed at the meeting. This can then be reviewed in summary at future meetings. This way, the board can focus time on the areas which, through improvement, will improve the overall service to tenants. A more targeted session with the aim of understanding and making suggestions to improve those areas of lower performance.*

10. Forward Agenda

The main agenda items for the next meeting were agreed as follows:

- KPIs / Performance (standing item)
- Housing Services Delivery Plan (standing item)
- Annual Complaints Performance Report
- Tenant Engagement Update

It was noted that other items may come from the additional 'away day' meeting.

11. Any Other Business

A Tenant Member raised an issue with a wet-room refurbishment that was now into its third week and still not resolved. As such there was concern this may also be happening in other properties with the same contractor involved. Officers advised they would look into this issue outside of the meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 26th August 2026, 10am, Esperance Room, CCDC.

The meeting closed at 12:10pm.

Housing Services - Quarter 4 Performance Report 2025/26

Committee:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	16 July 2026
Report of:	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets
Portfolio:	Housing and Corporate Assets

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Members on the progress of the Housing Services Improvement Plan and performance at the end of quarter 4 and year end of 2025-26.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the progress at 2025/26-year end relating to the delivery of the Housing Services Improvement Plan as detailed at Appendix 1 and the performance information set out at Appendix 2.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.2 The performance information allows Cabinet to monitor progress in delivery of the Housing Services' priorities and operational services.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The Housing Services Improvement Plan (HSIP) was approved by Cabinet on 24 April 2025, and the accompanying key performance indicators are taken from those previously reported as part of the corporate performance reporting. These are designed to focus on key strategic and operational priorities for Housing Services.
- 3.2 Overall, 64% of the projects have been delivered or work is ongoing to ensure delivery. Progress in delivering the HSIP is summarised in section 5 of the report and set out in detail in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 With regard to the operational performance of the key areas of Housing Services, 88% of targets were met or exceeded. Further details can be found at 5.5 and in Appendix 2.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The HSIP sets out key strategic and operational projects which support the delivery of Housing Services' priorities and contributes directly to the Corporate Priority 3:

Priority 3 - The Community: Improve the housing offer across the District.

The provision of good quality housing in the public sector is a priority for the Council and there is a commitment to achieve this by managing our Council homes efficiently and effectively.

5 Report Detail

Background

- 5.1 The Housing Service Improvement Plan (HSIP) set out in Appendix 1 to this report is the approved plan setting out how Housing Services will achieve progress against its strategic objectives; this plan establishes the actions and timetable for delivery that are the basis for Housing Services' main work programme which feeds into the Council's performance reporting framework.
- 5.2 In addition to the HSIP, performance is also reported against the delivery of key operational services; Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for these services are set out in Appendix 2.

Housing Service Improvement Plan (HSIP)

- 5.3 A commentary on performance and a rating for each of the projects/actions set out in the HSIP is given in Appendix 1. A summary of progress, by rating, is given in the table below.

Table 1: Summary of progress in delivery of key projects/actions for Quarter 4/year end

Quarter					Total Number of Project Actions
	Action completed	Work on target	Work < 3 months behind schedule	Work > 3 months behind schedule	
1	2	9	4	0	15
2	6	15	8	1	30
3	13	10	8	8	39
4	24	7	5	13	49
TOTAL (as at Q4)	24 (49%)	7 (14%)	5 (10%)	13 (27%)	49 (100%)

- 5.4 At the end of quarter 4, of the project actions planned for delivery in this period:
- 49% have been completed;
 - 14% are on target to be completed;
 - 37% are behind schedule.

There are 64 project actions in total, with some projects having a number of actions, so the remaining 14 actions are ongoing or are planned to be completed beyond 2025/26 (plus one action becoming superseded).

The completed actions increased substantially at end of Q4, however the works over 3 months behind schedule has also increased. The reasons for slippage and the corrective action to be taken is set out in Appendix 1.

5.5 In respect of actions completed, a number of successes for the year have been recorded:

- First year of meetings for the newly formed Housing Board held.
- Better demonstrating outcomes for tenants - You Said, We Did feature added to website; and increased performance information.
- Majority of policies and procedures now refreshed and in place.
- Stock Condition Surveys were all completed (inc. no accesses).
- Tenant Scrutiny Panel re-introduced and completed first topic review.
- Tenancy Agreement reviewed and new implemented.
- New cleaning contract procured and in place.
- Website review with tenants completed by newly established Tenant Scrutiny Panel.
- Completed initial Decarbonisation project.
- Completed review and procurement of new cleaning contract of communal areas in flatted accommodation.

5.6 A number of the IT related actions have slipped as a due diligence exercise is currently underway to inform what the future direction needs to be with regards to Go Mobile/Console module. NEC have made a number of enhancements to the system, and we were recently made aware that Midland Heart Housing Association are using the module successfully. Following a visit to their offices, it was deemed prudent to put our immediate efforts into reviewing the module to see if it can be made fit for purpose.

Once the above has been determined, a further decision will be made on what resources are needed to progress.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

5.7 In addition to the HSIP, performance is also reported against the delivery of key operational services. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Housing Services are set out in Appendix 2 and are summarised in Table 2:

Table 2 - Summary of key performance indicators for Quarter 4

Quarter					N/A	Total Number of KPIs
	Performance exceeds target	Performance on target	Performance < 5% below target	Performance > 5% below target	Reported Annually / Measure only	
1	6	9	0	2	7	24
2	6	9	0	2	7	24
3	6	9	1	1	7	24
4	6	9	1	1	7	24
TOTAL (as at Q4)	6 (35%)	9 (53%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)	7	24

- 5.8 Of the 24 indicators due to be reported on in quarter 4:
- 6 indicators show performance above target (35%)
 - 9 indicators show performance on target (53%)
 - 2 indicators show performance below target (12%)
 - 7 indicators are measure only.
- 5.9 The position at Q4 end has remained consistent with Q3. The two targets not achieved at year end were:
- (i) Average re-let time for Voids (calendar days); and
 - (ii) No. of tenants awaiting disabled facilities work (registered and work approved (major and minor)) (at period end).

The summary reasons for underperformance is set out in Appendix 2.

- 5.10 To address the 'average re-let time for voids (calendar days)' and improve the position, a number of improvements are being made including:
- Changes being made in operational delivery, which are now starting to show. A new review is underway, changing scheduling work and co-ordinating operatives into specialist groups. The team continues to focus on maintaining and improving performance.
 - Reducing live voids being held for works, the aim is maintain this number around 8-14 as this will allow the internal repairs team to manage and control voids more efficiently.
 - Better implementing "void paths" into NEC, will help track voids throughout its lifecycle and identify bottleneck areas which can then drive improvements.
 - More focussed weekly meetings between Repairs and Allocations Teams assist in the end-to-end management of voids and helps prevent any unnecessary delays.

For context, it should be noted that the average relet time overall (minor and major works) across England and Wales for Housemark benchmarking members was 71 days in 24/25 - compared to our 56.36 days this year, so we are performing relatively well. However, we recognise our void relet performance has worsened in recent years and we want to improve and increase tenant satisfaction in relet times and reduce void rent loss.

- 5.11 Importantly, all of the Building Safety/Decency indicators were maintained at 100% across the year and 100% of emergency repairs were completed in time, ensuring tenant safety in our homes. Performance for the Income Management Team was also particularly positive, with 100.27% of rent collected as a proportion of rent due; and 18.49% of Former Tenant Arrears (FTA) collected as a proportion of total FTA.

6. Implications

6.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from the report. If any of the actions require any additional funding to complete, these will be the subject of a separate report.

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Risk Management

The Council's Strategic Risk Register sets out the risks Housing Services faces in delivering its priorities. In relation to this report and appendices includes the following risks:

- (i) Failure to meet required housing standards and not being prepared for inspection.
- (ii) Health and safety arrangements for properties.

Delivering actions within the Housing Services Improvement Plan and monitoring KPIs are control measures to contribute towards addressing these risks.

6.5 Equalities and Diversity

Equality and diversity matters are addressed in individual areas and by undertaking equality impact assessments for projects and programmes of work where this is necessary and appropriate.

6.6 Health

None.

6.7 Climate Change

None.

7 Appendices

Appendix 1: Housing Services Improvement Plan

Appendix 2: Key Performance Indicators

8 Previous Consideration

None.

9 Background Papers

None.

Contact Officer: James Morgan

Telephone Number: 01543 464381

Ward Interest: All Wards

Report Track: Cabinet: 16/07/26

Key Decision: No

Housing Services Improvement Plan 2025/26

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
Safety and Quality Standard						
1.	HRA 30 Year Business Plan (GTA)	Delivery of the stock condition survey (SCS)	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets Housing Property Services (HPS) Manager	Q1 2025/26	Completed 3,050 Surveys out of 4,500 surveys on all properties visited (69%). The remainder exhausted the no access procedure (3 contact attempts). Data and report received from Rapleys to inform further HRA 30 Year Business Plan project actions. A follow-up project to complete surveys on the outstanding properties will be undertaken, as well as a rolling programme going forward. Temporary Project Delivery Officer in post from December 2025 – Starting to coordinate and setup a surveying team to complete SCS into early 26/27.	★
2.	HRA Compliance (GTA)	Regular inspections of blocks to be undertaken and reported to Housing Board and Cabinet. This includes gas safety, electrical safety, asbestos, water hygiene and fire safety.	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets HPS Manager	Q1 2025/26	Now completed - reported to Housing Board (Q2 onwards). Rolling agenda item, and further validation figures requested by Housing Board will also now be provided alongside.	★

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
3.	HRA 30 Year Business Plan (GTA)	Develop a rolling programme of planned improvements from SCS data and report on progress to the Housing Board.	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets HPS Manager	Q2 2025/26	Not yet produced. Reported to HB in Q2.Reviewing data findings from SCS, which links to no.1. Data Officer in post from Feb 26 will help deliver analysis to inform the programme. Q4 - programme based on findings from SCS established. Need to incorporate findings from EPC measures and cost saving measures (for example aligning carrying out rainwater goods, and renewing roof tiles). Expected to be completed in Q1 2026-27.	
4.	HRA Compliance (GTA) and HRA Governance (Savills)	Review/establish data governance arrangements for housing assets and resident data.	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets			
		i) A full review to be undertaken of all records and information held to data cleanse and identify gaps/ weaknesses in the data held.	All Housing Service Managers	Q3 2025/26	A Business Analyst was appointed and tasked with the Go Mobile/Console specification. This is near completion and the contract will end. A review of the resources required to undertake this piece of work will now take place.	

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		ii) An on-going reconciliation will be undertaken of the HRA asset register to the health and safety checks completed, compliance data and other inspections to ensure records all in one place (one version of the truth).		Linked to ICT review.	As above. Building Safety Operatives in place and doing H&S checks etc. utilising TIO software.	
		iii) Data Governance Policy/Data Strategy;		Q3 2025/26	Work delayed due to staff resources. The HMIT Team Leader retired from the business in Q3, and the replacement will be assigned this work as a priority when permanently recruited.	✗
		iv) Performance Reporting Framework; and KPI definition document.		Q3 2025/26	Work delayed due to staff resources. Unable to appoint to the Housing Policy, Performance and Complaints Officer post in Q2, and other resources were not available. Housemark were consulted and quotes obtained, however sufficient resources would not be available (or be VFM) for an external provider to complete this work. Good practice examples of PRFs have been sought and officers will draft internally. A KPI definition document was completed in line with a revised 2026/27 KPI collection, which was provided to Housing Board in Q4.	✗

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		v) Housing assets data linked to ICT Review.		Linked to ICT Review.	Resources dependent. Linked to action 4i) above	
		vi) Options for a new single asset register compliance system will be explored.		Linked to ICT review.	As above, linked to 4)i)	
5.	HRA Compliance (GTA)	Review of existing systems and processes in the HRA and General Fund (commercial properties managed by HRA) to align them to ensure that we have a standardised approach to building safety inspections.	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets HPS Manager Corporate Assets Manager	A standardised approach is in place, non-HRA properties all done. Need to follow-up annually, with handover to Corporate Property Services. New Corporate Manager started in February 2026.		
		i) Review and develop written procedure for existing process in the HRA, including commercial properties (HRA Shops).		Q2 2025/26	To complete, issues with access to non-HRA. HPS Compliance team is working on. Delayed due to a review of policies and the initial exercise of gaining access to commercial units. HPS currently drafting written procedures - revised completion for Q2 2026-27.	
		ii) Ensure NEC system holds records of information and ability to report on performance against the process.		Q2 2025/26	Data kept in NEC, TIO and spreadsheets. NEC can hold all data we need - but needs to be built into system. Resource dependent as 4i) above.	

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		iii) Programme of inspections to be established and completed.		Q3 2025/26	As per procedures, still to be developed and for handover to Corporate Property Services to deliver on non-HRA. EICR's, FRA's, Gas Safety checks, Asbestos Survey all complete. LRA's booked in to be completed in Q1 2026-27.	
6.	HRA 30 Year Business Plan (GTA)	Full completion of the comprehensive external HRA review with HRA Business Plan & Capital Investment information, by Savills.	Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) & S151 Officer	Q2 2025/26	Review completed in Q4, follow on work now required. Links to no. 7 and 8 below. Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) & S151 Officer provided update to Housing Board in November 2025 and again in January 2026.	
7.	HRA 30 Year Business Plan (GTA)	Review of HRA reserves to fund planned maintenance, compliance and works arising from the stock condition survey.	Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) & S151 Officer	Q3 2025/26 (linked to budget setting process)	Link to no.6 above. Reviewing against emerging DHS requirements also. HRA Budget to Full Council in February 2026, but as stock condition survey was not 100% completed it was not possible to reflect this.	

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
8.	HRA 30 Year Business Plan (GTA)	Revision of the 30-year business plan, informed by results of the stock condition survey and housing needs assessment: - Business plan to be updated on a rolling basis as stock condition data increases. - Business plan review to be undertaken on a quarterly basis. - HRA recovery lead to develop and roll out training for housing staff on business plan and assumptions.	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets HRA recovery lead Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) & S151 Officer Deputy Chief Executive (Place)	Q4 2025/26	Links to no.6 and 7. Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) & S151 Officer updated Board in Jan 26. HRA Budget to Full Council in February 2026, but stock condition was not 100% completed. The partially completed stock condition survey is now being used to inform the refresh of the 30-year business plan.	
9.	HRA and Corporate Asset Management (GTA)	i) Develop HRA Asset Management Strategy - once SCS completed.	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets	2026/27	Links to SCS actions. Follows Business Plan actions.	
		ii) Develop an action plan to follow on from the Corporate asset management strategy already in place.	Corporate Assets Manager	Q4 2025/26	Corporate Property Services leading on – work on hold.	
10.	Decarbonisation & Energy Performance	i) Complete initial project - September 2025	HPS Manager Climate Change Officer	Q3 2025/26	All properties completed, grant funding received. Monitoring and final submission made during Q3. 112 properties received measures to meet EPC C, now all complete and submitted.	

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		ii) Incorporate into Capital programme of upgrade work and develop KPIs to add to performance.		Q3 2025/26	Follows on with developing work programmes (no.3). KPI's developed to help meet EPC C by 2030. Programme developed on 69% of stock to be incorporated into External Envelope Programme in Q1 2026-27 as per no.3.	
		iii) Explore other avenues for funding to support HRA capital budgets.		When available	As and when, actively exploring, speaking to WMCA and other contractors.	
		iv) Deliver additional decarbonisation measures if/when additional funding becomes available.		2026/27	Loft insulation top-up; A rated doors and windows; Smart heating controls; Solar PV. Ventilation strategy for each property. Incorporated into work programmes.	
		v) Install measures to meet EPC rating C		2029/30	Already working on, energy efficient boilers being fitted; capturing EPCs now; and SCS findings to be reviewed etc.	
11.	HRA Compliance (Savills)	i) Identifying risks to tenant safety and eliminating or mitigating those risks.	HPS Manager	2026/27	Work ongoing to embed into Compliance team work.	

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		ii) External Third-Party independent assurance to be sought. Increase % completed.		Q4 2025/26	Work in progress to increase % completed. Contractor to be procured in 26/27. During Q4 difficulties procuring due to resources and other higher priority procurements to complete.	
Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard						
12.	HRA Governance (GTA)	i) First formal meeting of the new Housing Board to enhance governance and oversight of delivery of housing services.	Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Head of Housing and Corporate Assets	Q1 2025/26	Completed. 13 th May 2025.	
		ii) Report to Housing Board every quarter - performance and HSIP standing agenda items.		Ongoing	Q1 and Q2 Performance provided to the Board (Q3 scheduled in Jan 26). Housing Services Performance report (inc. HSIP update and KPIs) scheduled to Board and Cabinet going forward. Performance and HSIP made standing items on Board agenda.	
13.	Policies and procedures (Savills)	Review policies and procedures – principal gaps and others where gaps identified. (Policy Tracker contains detail)	All Managers	Ongoing	Ongoing, see website for completed policies - Housing Strategies and Policies Cannock Chase District Council Easy read versions for tenants also being created. Tenancy Agreement version completed and work commenced on other inc. Rent policies. Tenants consulted on policies during development.	

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
14.	Triangulating data for prioritisation or risk management to take place. (Savills)	i) Complete Tenant Profiling Exercise.	All Service Managers	Q4 2025/26	Completed survey. Responses actioned where necessary. Data being input to NEC.	★
		ii) Complete SCS as above, (no.1)		Q1 2025/26	See no.1 above.	★
		iii) Tie information altogether in NECH system.		2026/27	Dependent on above and ICT resources. Data Officer will feed in.	
15.	Demonstrable outcomes for tenants. (Savills)	i) Develop an engagement tracker to record engagements and outcomes.	Housing Services Manager	Q2 2025/26	Engagements recorded in monthly performance reporting. A basic spreadsheet system is in use to record engagements and outcomes. This will be developed in due course, with learning being taken from other providers and Tpas.	★
		ii) 'You said, we did' extended to website publication, alongside Newsletter and Annual Report.		Q1 2025/26	Completed, see You said, We did Cannock Chase District Council Further developed following recommendation by Independent Housing Board member.	★
16.	Tenant Engagement (Savills)	i) Website consultation with tenants	Housing Services Manager	Q2 2025/26	Currently being undertaken with the Tenant and Leaseholder Review Panel (Tenant Scrutiny Panel) as their first topic review. Report received by Housing Board in Jan 26.	★

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		ii) Re-introduce Tenant Scrutiny Panel		Q2 2025/26	Panel recruited to and re-introduced. 4 tenants and 1 leaseholder onboard. Named themselves the Tenant and Leaseholder Review Panel. Membership now down to 4 core tenants, 2 dropped out mid-review, but one more recruited. Stepping up recruitment in early 2026.	★
		iii) Complete all Engagement Strategy actions.		Ongoing, strategy duration 2024-27.	Actions have been completed and work is ongoing on implementing all required actions into 26/27. Officer position is now permanently filled.	✓
17.	Transparency (Savills)	i) Publish quarterly performance information (following consideration by Housing Board and Cabinet) for tenants to be able to scrutinise.	Housing Services Manager	Q2 2025/26	Data was published on the website. Tenant Satisfaction Measures and Performance Information Cannock Chase District Council Updated every quarter going forward.	★
		ii) Develop scorecard for compliance/Safety and Quality Standard.		Q3 2025/26	KPI table to Cabinet placed online alongside figures for Q2 - this provides a more detailed presentation of the performance data. Performance data is presented to tenants online already in text form, however restricted on what can be done on the website due to accessibility reasons.	★

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		iii) Explore external audit of TSM management performance information.		Q4 2025/26	Action will now slip into 2026/27, TSM submission due later in Q2.	
Tenancy Standard						
18.	Secure tenancy agreement. (Savills)	Review and Implement updated tenancy agreement.	Tenancy Services Manager	Q2 2025/26	Complete - Tenancy Agreement Cannock Chase District Council	
19.	Improve empty property management	i) Reduce average relet times for empty properties.	Tenancy Services Manager Housing Maintenance Manager	Q4 2025/26	Average relet times did not reduce overall in 25/26. 56.37 days, compared to 53.59 days last year. For standard minor works voids, the relet time did decrease to 31.10 days from 36.63 days, but major works voids increased to 90.62 days from 74.76 days last year. However, Housemark figures show our performance is lower than our peers. Average for standard minor works relets is around 51 days. See comments in Housing Services - Quarter 4 Performance Report 2025/26.	

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		ii) Review lettable standard		Q4 2025/26	Repairs and Allocations teams reviewed. Revised standard to be tested/consulted on by involved tenants in Q1 26/27.	★
		iii) Improve satisfaction with new lettings.		Q1 2026/27	Satisfaction with the allocations and lettings process at end of Q4 25/26 was 90%, year end 24/25 was 87%, so an increase has been seen. Feedback will continue to be monitored on surveys and passed on to teams as required.	★
		iv) Adapted Housing Register to be developed once SCS data is fully updated and analysed.		2026/27	Started, data to be validated. Rapleys captured in second round of SCS.	
Neighbourhood and Community Standard						
20.	Safety of shared spaces (Savills)	External environment and grounds maintenance.	Tenancy Services Manager Parks and Open Spaces Manager			
		i) Review existing contract with Grounds Maintenance Team.		Q1 2025/26	Initial review completed, now exploring a new specification with external contractor. At Q4 end, draft specification completed and looking at a bill of quantities and confirmation, the in-house team can meet the specification requirements.	✗

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		ii) Complete joint estate inspections, to cover: – Tree shrub planting and external environment – street scenes/street cleaning – Communal drying areas & euro bins and their storage.	Parks and Open Spaces Manager HPS Manager	Q2 2025/26	Trees inspections completed with Tree Officers in Q2. A change in organisational structure in Parks and Open Spaces Teams across CCDC and SBC affected this action. Also, the Tree Team are purchasing a new software mapping system for surveying trees in the district. Street scene/cleaning inspections were completed in Q3. Communal drying areas and bin storage inspections were outstanding at end of Q4. Links to no.21 below, Safety of shared spaces.	
		iii) Following which, work programme to be established on the priority estates (link to no. 23, already identified)	Tenancy Services Manager HPS Manager	Q3 2025/26	Programme of estate inspections is currently done and pulls in other services as required. Annual Estate Inspections completed and published online. Communal drying areas and bin storage are still to be tied in as above.	

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
21.	Safety of shared spaces (Savills)	i) Review the cleaning contract of communal areas in flatted accommodation.	Tenancy Services Manager	Q1 2025/26	The review of the cleaning service has been completed, with a new specification and on-site confirmation of when the cleaning is completed. For 2026/27 we will be seeking to amalgamate the procurement of the voids property cleaning with the general needs block cleaning.	
		ii) Procure new Cleaning Contract.		Q2 2025/26	New contract procured and in place for one year. In the process of starting the new procurement of this contract linking together with the "Empty Property – Clean & Clear" contract. All documents in final draft and hoping to start procuring in May/June 2026	
22.	Safety of shared spaces (Savills)	Carfax estate improvements. i) Draw up Estate Plan.	HPS Manager Tenancy Services Manager	Q4 2025/26	Further work required. Preliminary estate inspections done, however repair works are required first before any plans drawn up.	
		ii) Engagement with tenants throughout process (focus groups for design, plan consultation, agreement)		Ongoing	Resident Engagement Officer has attended Estate Walk with Neighbourhoods Officer, with some initial items noted for attention. To be further developed with Community Day preparation. Building relationships with tenants is needed and ongoing. Tenant Profile information will assist with developing approach.	

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		iii) Hold initial Community Day.		Q2 2025/26	Not held, as per 22) i), repair works are required first. Delay until Spring 2026.	
23.	Safety of shared spaces (Savills)	Explore and introduce better methods to record and present outcomes of cooperative work with tenants, other landlords and relevant organisations to ensure the safety of shared spaces (i.e. areas which are not the responsibility of the Council) i.e. research best practice with other providers and further discussions with Savills.	Tenancy Services Manager	Q2 2025/26	We have looked at numerous organisations, LAs and HAs, and most just have a communal area policy with the Tenant Satisfaction Measures perception figures used to monitor and cover outcomes in this area - both of which we have and monitor, available for tenant scrutiny. We have collated a table with activities and outcomes, and will measure this each quarter. New Housing Operational Communal Area and Space Policy 2025 - 2030 to be consulted on and approved in Q4.	
Cross Cutting - All Standards						
24.	Housing ICT System (Savills)	i) Undertake full IT systems review (inc. website) and develop a costed, prioritised roadmap for the housing function (further to the IT review work undertaken to date).	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets Housing Services Manager	2026/27	Contract up in early 2027, work to review to begin. ICT resources dependent.	

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		ii) Stabilise the 'Go Mobile' system		Q1 2025/26	Work has been ongoing to rectify issues with the system and at year end is currently stabilized as much as possible. ICT resources report approved by Cabinet on 31/7/25, subject to Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) & S151 Officer sign-off on basis of a balanced Business Plan.	
		iii) Subject to resource approval, start 'Go Mobile' replacement procurement process.		Q2 2025/26	Cabinet approved 31/7/25, however subject to s151 Officer and Head of Housing & Corporate Assets sign-off on basis of a balanced Business Plan. Links to actions 6 and 8. Now continuing with Go Mobile and fixing issues. New tablet devices being rolled out imminent to all operatives and NEC GoMobile/Console switching to "Drip Feed" (work orders issued to operatives 1 at a time). Hoping that these changes will then allow all works to be managed through the system and remove all paper copy jobs. Performance Dashboards to then be produced that will enable more efficient planning and analysis of works.	N/A

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
25.	Wider corporate services (Savills)	Establish principles for non-housing function services in the delivery and support of RP responsibilities and produce action plan. <i>Links to no. 20 in part, but also includes arrangements with HR, ICT, Customer Services, Finance, Legal, Procurement etc.</i>	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets	Q4 2025/26	Working closely with corporate teams to deliver services.	
26.	Staff Resources (Savills)	Identify and recruit to additional roles required to support the Council's RP responsibilities.	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets	Ongoing (subject to resource approvals)	Staffing Report completed, with Housing Property Services team prioritized in 2025/26. Building Safety staffing resources increased. (4no.) Data Officer for Asset data approved. ICT resources report inc. Business Analyst x 2no., Project Manager and Technical Officer approved by Cabinet on 31/7/25 (subject to further s151 Officer approval, balanced HRA Business Plan).	
27.	Staff Resources (Link to Housing ICT System, no.24)	i) Review responsible officer for Housing ICT.	Head of Housing and Corporate Assets	Q2 2025/26	HMIT to stay within Housing Services. HMIT structure to be reviewed following introduction of HALO ticketing/work prioritization system.	

No.	Theme / Project	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Progress Update	Progress Symbol
		ii) Identify resources required for Housing ICT and management responsibilities (links to no. 24 and 26 above)		Ongoing	As above, no.26, resources identified and ICT resources report approved by Cabinet.	★
28.	Assurance	i) Complete HQN toolkits on standards, as a self-assessment.	All Service Managers	Q4 2025/26	A self-assessment has been completed.	★
		ii) Report to Housing Board.		Q1 2026/27	On May 2026 meeting agenda.	
29.	Council New Build	Completion of Aelfgar Redevelopment Scheme.	Housing Services Manager	Q1 2026/27	First handovers in April 2026, with completion in Autumn 2026.	
30.	Development Pipeline	i) Identify all viable development opportunities, obtain approvals and permission to spend as required.	Housing Services Manager	Q4 2025/26	Report went to L.Team in Q1 on options and agreement of way forward - no determination, work paused. Investment Partner status lost as no active schemes to put forward.	✓
		ii) Enable and deliver pipeline scheme(s).		Subject to approvals and resources.	Limited pot remaining from HIF following completion of Aelfgar Redevelopment. Staff resources also limited to progress any scheme currently.	

KPIs for Housing Services

Symbol	Description	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	End of Year
★	Performance exceeds target	6	6	6	6	6
✓	Performance on target / achieved	9	9	9	9	9
▲	Performance < 5% below target	0	0	1	1	1
✗	Performance > 5% below target	2	2	1	1	1
N/A	Reported Annually / Not Applicable / Outstanding	7	7	7	7	7
	TOTAL	24	24	24	24	24

Note: Figures cumulative to date, unless period end.

Indicator	Year End 24/25	Target 25/26	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Year End 25/26	Rating Symbol	Comments
Housing Repairs									
% emergency repairs completed in time	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	
% of non-emergency repairs completed in time	73.82%	75%	81.91%	81.65%	78.82%	75.64%	75.64%	★	Revised to exclude Planned Priority jobs.
Building Safety/Decency									
% of properties with a valid annual landlord Gas Safety Record	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	
% of properties with a valid Electrical Certificate (within 5 years)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	
% of passenger lifts that have a valid 6 monthly thorough examination record	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	
% of buildings that have a current Legionella risk assessment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	
% of buildings that have a current Fire risk assessment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	

Note: Figures cumulative to date, unless period end.

Indicator	Year End 24/25	Target 25/26	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Year End 25/26	Rating Symbol	Comments
Proportion of homes for which all required asbestos management surveys or re-inspections have been carried out.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
Proportion of homes that do not meet the Decent Homes Standard at year end.	0.7%	0%					-	N/A	Measure only - Annual figure. Not available at time of reporting. The figure is calculated for the LAHS return in July 2026.
Tenancy Management									
Housing Applications Processed within 28 days	80%	95%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%		99.7%, but reported to zero decimal place, therefore rounded up.
% of Mutual Exchange applications determined (approved or refused) within 42 days	96%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
% of dwellings that are vacant and available for let (at period end)	0.70%	N/A	0.94%	0.74%	0.74%	0.42%	0.42%	N/A	Measure only. Equates to 21 properties empty and available to let at year end.

Note: Figures cumulative to date, unless period end.

Indicator	Year End 24/25	Target 25/26	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Year End 25/26	Rating Symbol	Comments
Average re-let time for Voids (calendar days)	53.59	40.00	61.90	59.20	60.20	56.36	56.36		Only a slight improvement in Q4, so still above target time at year end and a worsened performance to last year. Major voids relet times have driven the increase and are keeping the average higher than targeted. This is as a result of increasing major voids works due to the condition of voids being returned and the amount of upgrade works being required.
No. of tenants benefiting from disabled facilities work (major and minor)	241	146	48	74	106	112	112		OT provider went into liquidation in 2025 this has meant less approved works for completion have come through to the contractor. New temporary OT provider secured in Q4. Works have been slowly picking back up.

Note: Figures cumulative to date, unless period end.

Indicator	Year End 24/25	Target 25/26	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Year End 25/26	Rating Symbol	Comments
No. of tenants awaiting disabled facilities work (registered and work approved (major and minor)) (at period end)	41	<17	27	23	5	8	8	★	Note, referrals received can fluctuate and this is out of our control. A large number of applicants are awaiting OT assessments or approval due to a break in OT assessments being carried out (see above). Once these have progressed and had work approved, the awaiting works figure may rise in the new financial year. However, we are confident the contractor can complete works and closely match awaiting once works approved to keep awaiting numbers below the target.

Note: Figures cumulative to date, unless period end.

Indicator	Year End 24/25	Target 25/26	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Year End 25/26	Rating Symbol	Comments
Rent collected as proportion of rent due	100.67%	100.00 %	100.18%	100.19%	100.05%	100.27 %	100.27%	★	
% of Former Tenant Arrears (FTA) collected as a proportion of total FTA	10.24%	6.00%	1.82%	5.39%	10.54%	18.49%	18.49%	★	More former debts have been collected despite not having a dedicated resource for collecting former debts.
Number of ASB cases opened per 1,000 homes by or on behalf of the registered provider during the reporting year	12.77	N/A	4.80	10.01	16.42	24.65	24.65	N/A	Measure only. Increase being seen in ASB cases, down to partial methodology. However we have seen an increase in ASB activities from 9 cases in every 1000 tenants to 15 in every 1000 tenants. Also more cases requiring legal intervention.
Number of ASB cases which involve hate incidents	1.20	N/A	0	0	0	0.20	0.20	N/A	Measure only

Note: Figures cumulative to date, unless period end.

Indicator	Year End 24/25	Target 25/26	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Year End 25/26	Rating Symbol	Comments
Housing Complaints									
Stage one complaints received per 1,000 homes during the reporting year.	8.98	N/A	1.20	3.60	5.40	10.04	10.04	N/A	Measure only
Proportion of Stage one complaints responded to within 10 days	93%	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	★	
Stage two complaints received per 1,000 homes during the reporting year.	1.40	N/A	0.60	1.40	2.00	2.81	2.81	N/A	Measure only
Proportion of Stage two complaints responded to within 20 days	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	
No. of escalations to the Ombudsman (LGO or Housing Ombudsman)	5	N/A	0	0	1	4	4	N/A	Measure only. At end of Q4, 2 cases currently being investigated by Housing Ombudsman, 2 awaiting assessment.

Note: Figures cumulative to date, unless period end.

Proposed New Surcharges for Development Management Services

Committee:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	16 July 2026
Report of:	Head of Economic Development and Planning
Portfolio:	Regeneration and Corporate Strategy

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To obtain authority to introduce new administration charges to be applied by Development Management to cover the costs associated with additional activities associated with the processing of planning applications or updating planning records.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the implementation of a charging regime as set in in Appendix 1, that propose the introduction of new surcharges that will be applied to amendments to planning application; additional attempts to validate planning applications; processing applications submitted directly to the Council; costs associated with public footpath diversions and; removal of extant (existing) enforcement notices.
- 2.2 That Cabinet provide delegated authority to the Head of Economic Development and Planning and the Development Management Team Leader to waive or reduce the administrative fees in exceptional circumstances.
- 2.3 That Cabinet agree to delegate the date for implementation to the Head of Economic Development and Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and-Corporate Strategy.
- 2.4 That Cabinet authorises the Head of Economic Development and Planning to finalise the Development Management Surcharges Charging Schedules and restrictions imposed in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Corporate Plan.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.5 The Development Management Service is a statutory service and is providing additional support beyond statutory requirements. Applicants are frequently requesting flexibility in validation processes as well as submitting amendments to planning applications.
- 2.6 The team are also engaged in enforcement activities and processes to facilitate public footpath diversions that are also outside of statutory responsibilities. Authority is sought to introduce charges to recover the cost incurred by the Planning Service in progressing these types of requests.

- 2.7 The proposed charging schedule and reasons for their introduction will be set out and published on the Council's website alongside guidance for applicants. The pre-application service will be available to assist applicants which may reduce the risk of applications not being validated as well as the need for later amendments.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The Planning Service has been actively seeking to streamline services in line with statutory requirements. At the same time, the service is mindful of its obligation to work proactively with applicants to progress planning applications, but the process has become cumbersome and involves a greater degree of officer input in activities that are above statutory requirements. These additional duties arise from direct submission of planning applications and the receipt of amendments to planning applications following initial submission. These areas are to be addressed through surcharges to recover the costs of providing the services.
- 3.2 The team also deals with other matters relating to updating the enforcement register and removing extant notices as well as public footpath diversions that are necessary to implement a planning consent. These are not statutory services however, the Planning Service is best placed to facilitate these requests, and charges are set out to recover the costs of providing the necessary assistance in these areas.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Priorities as follows:

Priority 1 - Economic Prosperity – to create a district that thrives.

Priority 2 – Health and Wellbeing - to encourage and support residents to lead healthy, independent and happy lives

Priority 3 - The Community - to ensure Cannock Chase is a place that residents are proud to call home.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 The Council has the power to set fee charges under Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003 for discretionary services. Where the local planning authority is mandated or under a duty to provide a statutory service, the section 93 power can only be relied on if the discretionary service is an "extension" to the statutory service. This extension would apply to an addition or enhancement to the statutory service above the level that the local planning authority has a duty to provide.
- 5.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 extended the powers to fee charging for local planning authority activities.

Processing applications submitted directly to the Council

- 5.3 Developers and applicants do on occasion, submit a planning application directly to the Council and this may be with the intention to avoid the Planning Portal fee or it is the easiest way for them to submit an application.

- 5.4 A postal or directly submitted application requires officer time to scan and prepare the documents to an appropriate format and forward the information onto the Validation team. The application fee is intended to cover validation but the further checks and administrative tasks to receive and format the submission into an electronic file are additional. Presently, these costs are borne by the Council, and it is recommended that these costs are recovered from the applicant as highlighted in Appendix 1.

Accepting amendments to live planning applications

- 5.5 Developers do on occasion, submit a planning application in the knowledge that it will require amendment at a future time. This is reflected in the high number of invalid submissions (around 43%). The applicant may initially submit with the intention to negotiate on the detail during the consideration of the application rather than undertaking this discussion as part of a pre-application process.
- 5.6 Often, issues and objections will arise from statutory public consultation that the applicant seeks to address through amendments should the case officer be prepared to accept amendments to the scheme.
- 5.7 The current approach as set out on the Councils website allows for amendments of a minor nature that would improve the scheme, but this would be at the case officer's discretion. The amendment should provide a necessary improvement and should not jeopardise a decision within the statutory period for determining the application. Over the last 12-month period (1/5/25 - 1/5/26) the Council sought 76 extensions of time to cover the submission of amendments, which equated to 27% of the applications determined. Not all applications that seek amendments require an extension of time.
- 5.8 The Council will not generally accept amendments in the following cases:
- Where they trigger the need for a fresh 21-day consultation (assessed on an individual basis)
 - lead to an increase in size of or material change to the red edge site boundary unless requested by the LPA
 - trigger a significant move or relocation of footprint and/or volume and mass of built form
 - introduce materially different uses
 - materially increase the visual impact of the development
 - exacerbate concerns raised by third parties.
- (Please note that this is not an exhaustive list).
- 5.9 The Council has always worked positively with applicants to improve schemes, rather than refusing applications or accepting poor-quality development.
- 5.10 It is proposed, subject to approval, that the fees outlined in Appendix 2 will be charged when accepting amendments to valid planning applications. Amendments will only be accepted where an Extension of Time (EoT) is agreed with the applicant or their agent. In practice, agents are usually willing to submit amendments rather than risk a refusal. This is because securing permission through amendments is typically quicker than resubmitting a new application or

going through an appeal process. The proposed amendment fee is also significantly lower than the cost of submitting a new application.

- 5.11 Amendments will only be accepted following a case officer request. No amendments will be accepted where an application is unacceptable in principle and concerns cannot be fully addressed through an amendment or where refusal is likely.
- 5.12 The Planning Service already operates at full capacity. Allowing multiple amendments without recovering the cost places an additional burden on officers and slows down decision-making across all applications. Holding applications open while repeated changes are made significantly increases caseloads and reduces overall efficiency. To help avoid this, applicants are encouraged to use the Council's pre-application advice service to resolve issues before submitting an application.

Fees for Public Footpath Diversions

- 5.13 The public footpath diversion order process is complex and lengthy. It involves extensive consultation and advertisement, and there are many opportunities for individuals and organisations to object to the proposal.
- 5.14 The Council will assess whether statutory tests are met and considers impact on public use and enjoyment, and the extent of the affected land. The majority of this is carried out by the Councils Legal team however Planning Officers are expected to check and validate an application in conjunction with the applicant. A nominated Planning Officer uploads all relevant information into an electronic file and completes instructions to legal. The Planning Officer must subsequently visit the site and erect site notices at either end of the footpath and any other point deemed necessary to notify the public of the application. Once the Order is accepted the Planning Officer is again required to visit the site and erect site notices that confirm the Order. The Planning Officer is required to check all legal documents once the Order has been accepted and finally visit the site to check all works subject to the Order.
- 5.15 The Legal Service have published their charges to process footpath diversions however the administrative costs for checking and validating an application, site notice erection and the final checking of the Order and inspection of the works carried out by the Planning Service are not currently recovered. It is proposed that the fees outlined in Appendix 3 will be applied alongside legal in relation to footpath diversions.

Enforcement Notice Requests

- 5.16 A few requests have been received by the Planning Service requesting the removal of an extant Enforcement Notice. To process a request, the support team will retrieve archived records and upload the information into an appropriate format.
- 5.17 The Council is not required to remove extant notices and have processed these on a voluntary basis where workloads allow. There is very little disruption to work programmes as very few requests are received, and they are an administrative process that corrects the enforcement record where a planning breach has been resolved. Property owners are generally concerned to see notices recorded

against a property that may affect its sale or marketability and ask that adverse records are removed if they are no longer relevant. This activity is only undertaken in limited circumstances but could be extended if costs can be recovered. The proposed charges outlined in Appendix 4 will be applied to requests for enforcement notice compliance confirmation or removal of an enforcement notice from the enforcement register.

- 5.18 The charging schedules referenced above have been benchmarked with other Local Planning Authorities and is set at a comparative level against a cost recovery calculation. The charging schedule enables compensation for discretionary activities that the Council is having to undertake to the detriment of service efficiency and customer experience.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

Over the last 12 months the Council incurred costs of approximately £17,000 based on activity levels dealing with the processing of planning applications and updating planning records.

Whilst this figure is no indication of the costs likely to be incurred in 26/27, it is anticipated that the introduction of the proposed charges will mitigate the staff time spent in processing of planning applications or updating planning records.

All proposed charges have been calculated on the basis of staff time input, ensuring that the charge does not exceed the cost of providing the service.

6.2 Legal

Legal implications are set out within the report.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

6.4 Risk Assessment

There is a potential for applicants to dispute or challenge the surcharges. The costs identified have been quantified and can be justified. Where costs are not met, the application would proceed based on existing information.

Applicants have taken the opportunity to amend applications either during validation or consideration stage without incurring a charge. The new process would limit the opportunity and deter this activity which impacts on the processing of other applications.

Applicants have taken the opportunity to amend applications in an ad hoc manner and have thereafter failed to agree an extension of time. The new process to allow applicants to submit an amendment via a formal process that includes an extension of time would ensure the service continues to meet its performance figure targets.

There is a risk that poor quality development will be allowed to ensure Government targets are met.

In terms of extant enforcement notice processing and footpath diversion applications, the risks are deemed to be low as the team undertake these activities.

6.5 Equalities and Diversity

None.

6.6 Health

None.

6.7 Climate Change

None.

7 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Charging Schedule for amendments to planning applications

Appendix 2 - Charging Schedule for postal applications

Appendix 3 - Charging Schedule for footpath diversions

Appendix 4 - Charging Schedule for confirming / removing enforcement notices

8 Background Papers

None.

9 Previous Consideration

None.

Contact Officer:	Claire Faulkner
Telephone Number:	01543 464337
Ward Interest:	All
Report Track:	Cabinet: 16/07/26
Key Decision:	Yes

Proposed Charging Schedule for amendments to Planning Applications

Proposed Charging schedule:

Fee Type	Cost
Householder / LDC / Advert	£75.00
Minors (including COU)	£100
Majors	£250 per amendment

Appendix 2

Proposed Charging Schedule for Planning Applications submitted directly to the Council

£53.00 Proposed charge for Cannock Chase

Appendix 3

Proposed Charging Schedule for Footpath Diversion Applications

£445.00 Proposed charge for Cannock Chase

Appendix 4

Proposed Charging Schedule for providing Enforcement Notices

Compliance with a Notice

£75 Proposed charge for Cannock Chase

Examples of what other Councils are charging for this service

£200 Lichfield District Council

£75 South Staffs Council

£75 East Staffs Council

£75 Stoke on Trent City Council

Withdrawal of a Notice

£257 proposed charge for Cannock Chase

Local Plan Regulation 20 Scoping Consultation

Committee:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	16 July 2026
Report of:	Head of Economic Development and Planning
Portfolio:	Regeneration and Corporate Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To inform members of the content of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 ("2026 Regulations") Regulation 20 Scoping Consultation and to seek approval to undertake the consultation.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1. Approve the Scoping Document (Appendix 1), the Draft Communication and Engagement Strategy (Appendix 2) and the Scoping SEA (Appendix 3) for public consultation.
- 2.2. Agree to the undertaking of a six-week consultation on the Local Plan Scoping Document.
- 2.3. Agrees to provide delegated authority for any non-substantive amendments within the documents to the Head of Economic Development and Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Leader.
- 2.4. Delegates authority to the Head of Economic Development and Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Leader to approve and publish documents required for the summary of the scoping consultation as required in Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.5 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) places a statutory duty on Local Plan Authorities to have an up-to-date Local Plan. Cannock Chase is required to undertake the development of a new Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.
- 2.6 Regulation 20 of the 2026 Regulations requires a scoping consultation to be undertaken inviting representations to be made to the local planning authority about matters relevant to the preparation of the local plan as the authority consider appropriate, including what the plan should contain and how the authority should engage with them in the preparation of the local plan.

- 2.7 Following the Gateway 1 Self-Assessment (Regulation 21) the Council are required to prepare a document in connection with the preparation of the local plan called the 'summary of scoping consultation'. Regulation 22 sets out the parameters of the scoping document and that this must not be published prior to the Gateway 1 self-assessment being made publicly available.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The 2026 Regulations (Statutory Instrument 2026 No. 186) requires Cannock Chase Council to commence a new plan-making process. These regulations came into force on 25 March 2026.
- 3.2 The 2026 Regulations stipulate the stages of consultation and publication of summary of consultation documents that the Council are required to undertake at specific stages in the plan-making process.
- 3.3 An alternative to progressing with the scoping consultation and subsequent publication of the summary document would be to not undertake the consultation. This action would not be in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) 2026 that requires the authority to undertake the scoping consultation and publication of the summary document. Furthermore, this would leave the Council open to intervention by the Secretary of State.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Priorities as follows:
- **Priority 1 - Economic Prosperity** – to create a district that thrives.
 - **Priority 2 – Health and Wellbeing** - to encourage and support residents to lead healthy, independent and happy lives
 - **Priority 3 - The Community** - to ensure Cannock Chase is a place that residents are proud to call home.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 To provide meaningful early engagement in the plan-making process, local planning authorities must invite representations on matters including what the plan should contain and how future engagement on the plan should be carried out. This relates to a Scoping Document, which is asking for views and feedback on the issues which the new Local Plan should address.
- 5.2 The current Local Plan 2018 – 2040 was adopted 23 March 2026. A notice of commencement for the new Local Plan and the associated Local Plan Timetable will be published no later than 30 June 2026, and this report and proposed consultation is in fulfilment of the next step in the process of developing the new Local Plan.
- 5.3 The Scoping Document is deliberately high level and broad to ensure that a wide range of matters are considered before detail of the new plan is formulated, whilst also considering whether specific elements of the recently adopted Plan are considered to still be relevant to the District.

- 5.4 The consultation will take place for a six-week period beginning on Monday 3 August 2026. The 2026 Regulations do not specify a minimum consultation period for this stage, but it must conclude prior to the publication of the Gateway 1 self-assessment summary that can be no later than 31 October 2026.
- 5.5 Members are requested to note that in the Scoping Document there are references to a number of changes being made to planning policy at a national scale, including the awaited changes to National Policy following the December 2025 Consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework including the National Development Management Policies.

Next steps

- 5.6 Should Cabinet resolve to undertake the scoping consultation, a consultation will be undertaken for a period of six weeks. A summary of the representations will be collated and published in line with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

Any costs associated with the carrying out of the Scoping Consultation exercise referred to throughout this report will need to be contained within the Budget for the New Local Plan.

The Council agreed in February 2026, as part of the Budgets Process, an amount of £810,000 to deliver the New Local Plan over the budget period 26/27 to 29/30.

6.2 Legal

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 place a statutory requirement on local planning authorities to undertake a scoping consultation in accordance with Regulation 20 as part of the plan-making process. Failure to undertake this consultation would constitute a breach of these Regulations.

Non-compliance with Regulation 20 would expose the Council to a significant risk of legal challenge, including judicial review, on the basis that the plan-making process has not been carried out in accordance with statutory procedural requirements. This could result in delay, additional costs and reputational harm.

The Council would also be unable to comply with subsequent regulatory requirements, in particular the preparation and publication of the 'summary of scoping consultation' required under Regulation 22. This is a necessary procedural step and failure to undertake it would prevent lawful progression through later stages of the process.

There is a further risk of intervention by the Secretary of State in circumstances where a local planning authority is failing to comply with its statutory plan-making duties.

In addition, failure to undertake early consultation would undermine the Council's ability to demonstrate that it has met legal requirements for stakeholder engagement and procedural fairness.

Overall, not undertaking the scoping consultation would create significant legal and procedural risks and would result in non-compliance with the statutory requirements governing plan preparation.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

6.4 Risk Management

The risks associated with undertaking the scoping consultation are considered minimal. The consultation will ensure early engagement as part of the Local Plan process and will offer parties the opportunity to input at this initial stage on the plan content and issues for consideration to inform the next stage of the plan-making process.

The risk of the Council not undertaking the scoping consultation is that it will impact on the Council's ability to progress through Gateway 1: self-assessment and continue with the plan-making process.

6.5 Equalities and Diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out at each stage of the Local plan. The EqlA will be updated as needed and will form part of the submission to examination.

6.6 Health

The Local Plan will be supported by a Health Impact Assessment that will be updated at key stages of the plan-making process.

6.7 Climate Change

This area will be a key element of the Local Plan. It is a cross-cutting theme of the adopted Local Plan and will be developed further to provide new guidance on mitigation and adapting to climate change implications and support the transition to net zero.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Scoping Document

Appendix 2: Draft Communication and Engagement Strategy

Appendix 3: Scoping SEA

8. Previous Consideration

None

9. Background Papers

None

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Telephone Number: 01543 464 326/308

Ward Interest: All

Report Track: Cabinet: 16/07/26

Key Decision: Yes



Cannock Chase District Council
Local Plan 2026 – 2046
Scoping Consultation



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This is the first stage of consultation in the preparation of the Council's new Local Plan. Our existing Local Plan was adopted by the Council in March 2026 but requires to be updated to meet the Government's new requirements. Cannock Chase's new Local Plan will be prepared under the new system of plan-making, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.
- 1.2. This stage of the local plan preparation process follows the publication of the Notice to Commence a new Local Plan and the publication of the Local Plan Timetable, both of which have been issued on **24 June 2026**.

What is this consultation about?

- 1.3. The purpose of the Scoping Consultation is to provide meaningful early engagement in the plan-making process by seeking views from local residents and stakeholders as to what the plan should contain and how future engagement should be carried out.
- 1.4. We want your views on the key issues that will shape our District. This includes your views on the current Local Plan and whether the Plan's current vision and priorities are still right. We're also asking for your thoughts on the challenges of planning for more homes, the infrastructure needed to support growth, how we can protect and enhance our built and natural environments, support jobs and the economy, tackle climate change, and create well-designed and healthy communities. This will help us confirm the content of the new Local Plan.
- 1.5. To help you respond to the consultation, this document sets out matters which the Council considers are relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.
- 1.6. The consultation period will run from Monday 3 August until 5pm on Monday 14 September 2026 and details of how to respond are included at the end of the document and on the Local Plan 2026 – 2046 web page: **Add Link**

Why are we updating the Local Plan?

- 1.7. The Government requires us to update our Local Plan to respond to their reforms to the planning system intended to increase the delivery of new homes and support economic growth.
- 1.8. Cannock Chase was identified in the Government' Guidance published on 6 March 2026 as one of 39 local authorities required to publish a notice of intention to commence plan-making by 30 June 2026 and to publish a Gateway 1 self-assessment by 31 October 2026¹.

¹ [Rollout of the new local plan-making system - GOV.UK](#)

- 1.9. The Council will be producing a new style Local Plan under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 and responding to the further changes to the planning system introduced through the proposed updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published for consultation in December 2025. This means that our new Local Plan will be produced within a 30-month formal period and will be in a predominantly digital format.
- 1.10. The Plan will set out a vision and spatial strategy for the District and focus on site allocations and local spatial policies. More general policies will be replaced by the national decision-making policies contained in the NPPF, and where applicable evidenced specific local context policies to support these.

What is the process for updating out Local Plan?

- 1.11. As part of the early stage of preparing the Plan, we are running this Scoping Consultation to gather views on what the Plan should cover, how communities and stakeholders should be involved. A 'Call for Sites' will also be undertaken in the early stages of preparation to gain an understanding as to what land is available for development; **further information on this is available on the Council's website.**
- 1.12. During this period, we will also be updating our evidence base to inform the work on the new Plan. This includes work already undertaken to update our Green Belt Assessment and further studies to provide a clearer understanding of the Council's housing and employment needs.
- 1.13. The new system then includes two formal consultation stages:
- **Proposed Local Plan Content and Evidence 'Vision and Strategic Options' – anticipated May-June 2027:** this consultation will focus on the draft vision of the Plan and proposed aims and objectives, the proposed spatial strategy and a summary of the evidence gathered/still to be gathered.
 - **Consult on the proposed Local Plan – anticipated February – March 2028:** this will be a consultation on the full draft Plan before it is submitted for independent examination.
- 1.14. Full details of the timescales for producing the new Local Plan are set out in the Council's Local Plan timetable which can be viewed on the Local Plan web page: **Add Link**. This will be kept up to date throughout the period our new Plan is being prepared.

2. Changes to the national planning system

- 2.1. The Government has made some changes to the planning system that will have a direct impact on how we plan for Cannock Chase's future growth. These are summarised below.

Changes to increase housing supply

- 2.2. The Government has stated that councils must plan to meet all of their local housing needs and a new mandatory method was introduced in 2024 for calculating the minimum number of dwellings councils need to plan for. This method was not applicable for the current adopted Local Plan. The new method is based on a proportional increase in existing dwelling stock, with an extra uplift in areas where homes are less affordable. This means most Councils, including Cannock Chase, now have higher housing targets.
- 2.3. The current adopted Local Plan has a housing figure of 264 dwellings per annum for the first five years post-adoption rising to 314 dwellings per annum from year six. The new Local Plan for Cannock Chase will be required to plan for 522 dwellings per annum a 97.7% increase.

Changes to Green Belt policy

- 2.4. The Government now clearly states that if there's a shortage of homes or business space, this can count as a valid reason to change Green Belt boundaries when making Local Plans. This means councils must look at their Green Belt and consider changes to meet these needs – unless doing so would seriously harm the purpose of the Green Belt as a whole.
- 2.5. A new category of land called 'Grey Belt' has been introduced. This includes land in the Green Belt that's either previously developed or doesn't strongly serve one of the following key Green Belt purposes – stopping urban sprawl, keeping protection between towns or protecting historic towns. Grey Belt should be considered first if there is a need to release Green Belt land. There is also now more scope to redevelop previously developed land in the Green Belt.

Promoting economic growth

- 2.6. There is a requirement for the Local Plan to meet the needs of a modern economy, including identifying suitable locations for uses such as laboratories, gigafactories, data centres, digital infrastructure, freight and logistics.

Change to the use of Supplementary Planning Documents

- 2.7. Our current Local Plan has a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which relate to it and provide additional policy guidance on a number of specific planning related topics. These include the Cannock Chase Local Design Guide SPD – which provides detailed guidance to ensure the high-quality design of new development – and Developer Contributions and Housing Choices SPD – which sets out the Council's approach to securing developer contributions from new developments that require planning

permission. SPDs will be replaced by Supplementary Plans in the new plan making system. We will therefore need to consider whether there is detail from our existing SPDs (which remain a material consideration in decision making until the updated Local Plan is adopted) which can be embedded in the new Local Plan and whether there is the need for more detailed requirements to be included in future Supplementary Plans to be prepared.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 2.8. Proposed plans, policies and strategies must be tested using a systematic, high-level process to evaluate their potential environmental effects before being approved. This is usually carried out through the process of SEA. Within the new planning system, the Government is intending to replace SEA and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) with Environmental Outcomes Reports (EORs). However, at the current time these requirements have not been formalised through regulations and, as such the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 continue to apply.
- 2.9. In addition, the requirement for a broader Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating social and economic, as well as environmental considerations, has been removed. For previous local plan reviews the Council undertook SEA as part of the SA of the Local Plan.
- 2.10. As a result, and during this transition period, SEA and HRA will be required to inform preparation of the plan. In the absence of the formal requirement for SA, the Council still considers that it would be prudent to expand the assessment to include consideration for appropriate social and economic factors, including impacts on health, education and job creation. This will ensure a most holistic assessment of impacts as the content of the updated Local Plan is considered.
- 2.11. The Council will also undertake Equalities Impact Assessment at each stage of the plan preparation.

3. What are the key considerations for our Local Plan content?

- 3.1. Given its recent adoption, there is much in the Local Plan 2018 – 2040 which we think is still relevant.
- 3.2. Therefore, our starting point is the existing Local Plan particularly focusing on the vision and updates to the District Profile (which sets out the key issues facing the District) and then considering any changes that impact upon the Local Plan 2018 – 2040 objectives.
- 3.3. We will also be asking if there are any other issues which you think the new Local Plan should cover and if you have any thoughts on the options that should be considered in the next round of consultation e.g. any specific policy content, revised or new policies.

Q1. What do you consider should be included in the content of the new local plan?

Local Plan Vision

- 3.4. The first step in updating the Local Plan is to consider the plan content, particularly in the context of the vision and spatial strategy of our existing adopted Local Plan.

The Vision for Cannock Chase District in 2040

Cannock Chase will be a prosperous and attractive district where people will want to live, work, socialise and spend their leisure time supported by services that our community needs. It will be a place where businesses will want to invest, creating new jobs and delivering sustainable places. It will provide the platform for healthier lifestyles around quality homes, access to leisure opportunities and infrastructure, support the transition to a low carbon economy, while improving and protecting its distinctive character and nationally significant landscape.

- 3.5. The new Local Plan will extend the Plan period by six years to 2046 to help inform the spatial vision we would like to know your thoughts.

Q2. To what extent do you agree with the vision for Cannock Chase in the current adopted Plan?

Q3. What do you value most about the place where you live?

Q4. What would you like this District to be like in the future?

Key Themes (Proposed)

- 3.6. The Local Plan will cover lots of themes, the starting point for consideration is the current plan, and we'd like to know your thoughts on the following questions.

Theme 1: Meeting our Housing Need and Providing Housing Choice

- 3.7. Recent changes to the NPPF present both challenges and opportunities. The increased housing target of 522 dwellings per year means we must identify additional land beyond current allocations, prioritising brownfield development wherever possible. While the existing Local Plan target remains valid until 2031 or the adoption of a new Local Plan, we need to update to meet this higher housing target and avoid unplanned growth. In doing so, it creates an opportunity to meet Cannock Chase's long term future housing needs, including securing affordable housing. However, challenges relating to increased pressure on existing infrastructure and services will need to be addressed and planned for thoroughly.
- 3.8. Those sites allocated in the Local Plan 2018 – 2040 Plan will be reconsidered as part of the new Local Plan to ensure their continued availability and deliverability, as well as to update any housing figures where applicable.
- 3.9. The current adopted Plan prioritised the re-use of previously developed land, including the former Rugeley Power Station site, with strategic growth opportunities being prioritised around the Cannock, Hednesford and Heath Hayes, and Rugeley and Brereton areas with minimal development opportunities in Norton Canes.

Q5. To what extent do you agree with the existing priority areas for development set out in our current Local Plan?

Q6. Are there any places that you think could benefit from new homes? *You might want to consider places with good transport links, access to jobs, or where new homes could help regenerate underused or neglected land or help support underutilised local services.*

Q7. Community facilities, health facilities, open space, schools, timing of delivery, transport, other. What do you think we need to consider in planning for more homes?

Theme 2: Securing Economic Prosperity

- 3.10. The current Local Plan identifies a need for 74ha or employment land over the 22-year plan period from 2018 – 2040. Ensuring sufficient employment land is critical to supporting economic prosperity in Cannock Chase. The challenge for Cannock Chase will be the need to balance future needs with additional homes planned for, and the extended plan period, means that our new plan will need to identify further employment land for development.

- 3.11. The new Plan will also need to address the requirement in the NPPF to meet the needs of a modern economy, including identifying suitable locations and addressing locational requirements for uses such as laboratories, gigafactories, data centres, digital infrastructure, freight and logistics.

Q8. Where do you think new jobs should be located in Cannock Chase?

Q9. What types of employment should we be seeking to target?

Theme 3: Protecting and enhancing the Natural Environment

- 3.12. Our increased housing target presents significant challenges and opportunities in relation to protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The level of housing and employment land currently allocated within the adopted Local Plan will no longer be sufficient to meet the new housing requirement and in turn the employment requirement. This reinforces the need to continue prioritising the development of brownfield sites, maximising the use of previously developed land. However, there will likely be a need for additional land, and further release of Green Belt land may need to be considered.
- 3.13. The introduction of the Grey Belt land classification also presents challenges in the context of maintaining the permanence of the Green Belt in the long term, increasing the risk of scattered or unplanned development. Development that comes forward in this manner can undermine the strategic approach to growth, making it more challenging to secure the necessary supporting infrastructure and potentially eroding the long-term permanence of the Green Belt.
- 3.14. Cannock Chase also comprises of 40% National Landscape which - with the exception of the identified villages - is wholly within the Green Belt, further to this, consideration will also be required to be given to the sensitive nature of the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within the District alongside other designations.

Q10. How should we balance the need for more homes with protecting open spaces, the natural environment, the National Landscape and the Green Belt?

Q11. What is required to protect our high-quality environments and help to deliver nature recovery?

Theme 4: Design, Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities

- 3.15. The adoption of the Local Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document 2026 (SPD) provides a clear framework for achieving high-quality, locally distinctive design across the District in support of the adopted Local Plan policies. Good design also has much wider benefits, for example, addressing climate change and also improving health and well-being by encouraging more active lifestyles.

- 3.16. We will need to consider how design is embedded in the new Local Plan, combining detail set out within the Design Guide SPD and the potential for more detailed Design Codes, and also having regard to the Government's draft Design and Placemaking Planning Practice Guidance (January 2026) and the proposed changes to the NPPF (Consultation held in December 2025).
- 3.17. The Council will need to consider the existing open space (including equipped play) and recreational facilities across the District. Alongside considering the potential leisure and tourism need and recreational pressure within the District to provide accessible outdoor recreational facilities without harming the natural environment.

Q12. How can planning and development support high-quality design, which is appropriate for and reflective of Cannock Chase?

Q13. How can we ensure new development promotes healthy and active lifestyles for new and existing communities?

Q14. How should we balance any potential leisure and tourism need with recreational pressures on the natural environment and local communities?

Q15. If there is an identified need for leisure and tourism facilities, where do you think they should be located and what types should we be seeking to target?

Theme 5: Protecting Landscapes, Townscapes and Heritage

- 3.18. Cannock Town Centre is undergoing a period of significant change with the continuing regeneration project, and works are ongoing to consider regeneration projects in Rugeley Town Centre; supported by the Town Centre policies within the adopted Local Plan and the relevant site allocations. The proposals are being undertaken to improve the town centre environment and public realm, whilst also broadening the range of uses in town centres in line with national policy.
- 3.19. Changes to the Use Class Order have made it much harder to control development of traditional town centre uses. In 2020, a broad 'Class E' was introduced for commercial uses which means that a shop could be converted to a range of uses (for example a café, office or gym) without planning permission. The purpose is to allow greater flexibility for business owner whilst ensuring that centres remain vibrant, but it does mean there is less control over uses and monitoring can be difficult.
- 3.20. The town centre and primary shopping area boundaries were adjusted as part of the adopted Local Plan works and as such it is not proposed to make any further amendments to them as part of the new Plan. Cannock Chase's town centres, as with other town centre environments, face the ongoing challenge of

ensuring it remains vibrant and relevant in an increasingly online retail world. It is essential that the emerging Local Plan considers appropriate uses in response to this.

- 3.21. The new Local Plan will also consider the historic environment including the eight Conservation Areas across the District and listed buildings as an important part of the District's character and the approach to appropriate and good design within Cannock Chase.

Q16. How can we protect and enhance the vibrancy of our town centres?

Q17. What aspects of the District's heritage matter most to you, how can it be protected, and how it should shape sustainable development into the future?

Q18. How can we protect our unique heritage, natural and town landscapes?

Theme 6: Infrastructure, Transport and Connectivity

- 3.22. The District is located at a strategic road/rail transport crossroads between the north-west and south-east via the M6 Toll/M6 and West Coast Main Line railway and east – west via the A5/M54 corridor, and the West Midlands and wider Staffordshire.
- 3.23. The current Local Plan looks to provide accessible development and ensure development proposals give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements and where possible facilitate access to high quality public transport, address the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility, and create places that are safe, secure and attractive. Considering that good accessibility is key to delivering sustainable development and that by requiring development to maintain the current functioning of the transport system and supporting improvements to it within the Local Plan will deliver economic, environmental and social net gain.
- 3.24. The new Local Plan must continue to ensure that new development is planned for having regard to the capacity of existing infrastructure provision, whilst identifying the most appropriate areas for growth which can be supported by improved and enhanced infrastructure. By locating development in sustainable locations, the impact of development can be better managed and mitigated.

Q19. What do you think we need to consider in planning for supporting infrastructure?

Q20. Do you find it easy to move around the District freely and get to where you want to go?

Q21. Is there anything else you feel we should consider as we start to prepare the new Local Plan?

4. Your thoughts on how we consult

- 4.1. We want to make sure your voice is heard as the Local Plan develops. As part of this process, we want your views as to how we communicate and engage with the local community, residents and interested parties.
- 4.2. We have previously engaged with the local community and other important stakeholders in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) ([Statement of Community Involvement \(SCI\) | Cannock Chase District Council](#)). The SCI sets out how and when the community will be involved in the preparation of the Local Plan and other planning documents and how they will be consulted on planning applications.
- 4.3. In line with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 a Draft Communication and Engagement Strategy (CES) setting out how the Local Authority will communicate and engage with the local community, residents and interested parties on the production of the Local Plan and any Supplementary Planning Documents has been written and forms part of the Scoping Consultation Documents.
- 4.4. An update to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement to reflect the CES and the changes to the regulations will be undertaken in due course.
- 4.5. Your feedback on the draft CES will help shape our engagement strategy.

Q22. How should the authority engage with you in the preparation of the Local Plan?

Q23. Are the methods of communication set out in the CES reflective of those you found most useful during the previous local plan consultations?

Q24. Are there any alternative methods of communication you would like the Council to consider?

Q25. What might prevent you from taking part in our consultations and how could this be overcome?

5. What are the next steps?

- 5.1. After this consultation ends, all feedback will be reviewed. This will help us ensure we are responding to the views of our communities right from the start of the process of updating our Local Plan and that we are engaging with you in the most effective ways.
- 5.2. As referred to above, there will be a further two formal consultations for you to help shape the Plan: the first is anticipated in May/June 2027 and will focus on the vision of the Plan, proposed aims and objectives, the proposed spatial strategy and a summary of evidence gathered and still to be gathered. The second is expected in February 2028 and will be a consultation on the full draft Plan before it is submitted for independent examination.
- 5.3. All information of the Local Plan process can be found on our consultation web page: [Add Link](#). This will be kept up to date throughout the period we are updating our Local Plan.

6. How to respond to the consultation

- 6.1. We want to understand what the content of our new Local Plan should be and the key issues you think it should address. We also want your views on how we communicate and engage with you during this process.
- 6.2. [You can access our online form and provide your feedback here](#)
- 6.3. Representations can also be made on the provided forms in the following ways:

Email: planningpolicy@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Post: Planning Policy, Cannock Chase District Council, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1BG

- 6.4. The consultation runs from Monday 3 August until 5pm on Monday 14 September. Submission received after the deadline will not be accepted.



Draft

Cannock Chase District Council

Local Plan Communication and

Engagement Strategy

2026



Draft Cannock Chase Local Plan Communication and Engagement Strategy

The Local Plan Communication and Engagement Strategy (CES) is provided by the Planning Policy Section of Planning Services at Cannock Chase Council. To request a physical copy of the document or for information:

Write to:

Planning Policy
Planning Services
Cannock Chase Council
PO Box 28
Beecroft Road
Cannock
Staffordshire
WS11 1BG

Email: planningpolicy@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Phone: (01543) 462 621

Website: <https://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy>

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Cannock Chase Council is beginning the preparation of a new Local Plan for the District. The involvement of communities and stakeholders is key to preparing a development strategy for the District which allows it to grow sustainably, meets the needs of our communities, and protects and enhances the things we value most. The Council will therefore work closely with communities and stakeholders in preparing the new Local Plan, carrying out a range of engagement and consultation throughout its preparation.
- 1.2. This Communication and Engagement Strategy (CES) identifies how the Council will consult and engage communities and stakeholders on the new Local Plan and any related Supplementary Plans (SPs). Consultation on Neighbourhood Plans, planning applications, and decision-making is covered separately in the Statement of Community Involvement.
- 1.3. The Local Plan goes through various legal stages of preparation, and it is important to clearly set out how and when people can become involved. A summary of these stages is set out in Section 5.
- 1.4. For plan-making this document sets out:
 - What will be consulted upon;
 - Who we will consult;
 - When the Council will consult; and
 - How the Council will consult (methods used to consult).
- 1.5. The CES also provides information about:
 - The role of elected councillors, parish and town councils, and voluntary and community groups in planning matters;
 - Who you can contact for assistance in local planning matters; and
 - What will be expected of you when you make comments and how those comments will be presented.

2. Legal Requirements

- 2.1. There is a clear emphasis throughout national policy on encouraging early and consistent community involvement. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the online Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) encourages front-loading engagement and cooperation with the community so that local plans reflect a collective vision and agreed set of priorities. They also highlight the importance of early community engagement before planning and other applications are submitted.
- 2.2. Specifically for plan making, the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 sets out the steps to produce local plans and supplementary planning documents. It sets out who is to be included at each consultation, and which documents are available at each stage of the process.

3. The Planning System

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

Plan Making

- 3.2. Plan Making is referred to as planning policy or spatial planning. Plan Making requires Local Planning Authorities to produce a Local Plan for the area which sets out how the area will develop over a period of time. The Local Plan policies will be used to guide future development and provide the framework for decisions on planning applications.
- 3.3. The process of creating a Local Plan requires Local Planning Authorities to identify and engage, at an early stage, with all those that may be interested in the development or content of the Local Plan, and with groups who may be affected by proposals. With the help of the local community and the collation of an evidence base, the Local Planning Authority will identify options for addressing local development needs, to inform a preferred approach for future development. This requires carrying out community consultation with local communities, business and other interested parties.

4. The Local Plan

- 4.1. The process of producing a Local Plan involves various stages, each of which entail consultation with stakeholders and communities. The stages for the preparation of the Local Plan are set out in the Council's Local Plan Timetable and summarised in the diagram below. The preparation of each of these documents will provide important opportunities for communities to get involved in shaping the places in which they live.



5. Access to background local plan documents and evidence base

- 5.1. The documents prepared as part of the Local Plan process are done so on the basis of a sound and up-to-date evidence base. All relevant evidence base studies, assessments or strategies will be made available on the Council website. Paper copies of these documents can be made available upon request subject to the relevant fees and charges.
- 5.2. The adopted Local Plan; the Cannock Chase Local Plan 2018 – 2040 remains the development plan for the district until the new Local Plan is adopted by the Council and the Plan and its associated evidence base will remain available on the Council's website.
- 5.3. The work on the new Local Plan (2026 – 2046) including evidence-based studies and initial consultation exercises alongside any future work on all these aspects will need to conform to the requirements set out in this document, when finalised following this consultation.

6. Strategic Environmental Assessment

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

7. Supplementary Plans

- 7.1. Supplementary Plans are complementary documents that provide further details and guidance to policies contained in the Local Plan and are used as material considerations in reaching planning decisions.
- 7.2. Supplementary Plans take many forms ranging from a master plan or development brief, to design codes and design guides, and general additional guidance produced by the Council.

8. Engage in the Local Plan

- 8.1. There are a variety of ways in which communities and stakeholders can become involved in the preparation of the Local Plan. The minimum requirements for consultation and engagement are set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.
- 8.2. This section explains how and when you can be involved in influencing and informing the production of the Local Plan for the Cannock Chase District. Legislation sets out which documents need to be in place, the processes to produce those documents and the minimum requirements for involvement in their production.

How we involve you in the Local Plan

- 8.3. Advertising and notification of opportunities to be involved is essential. The Council will make use of electronic communication tools and build upon existing communication channels wherever possible. The Council will engage, involve and consult on planning matters in line with the latest regulations and guidance as appropriate and relevant.
- 8.4. An assessment under the equalities regulations may be appropriate and a requirement for some planning policy documents. Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) may be undertaken as a tool for ensuring that equality, social inclusion and community cohesion issues are considered when drawing up policies.
- 8.5. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026¹ specifies the persons that should be notified of consultations comprise of:
- General consultation bodies as the local authority consider appropriate;
 - Specific consultation bodies as the local planning authority consider may have an interest in the proposed local plan
 - Such residents or other persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area as the authority consider appropriate; and
 - Any person who requests to be notified of the making available of the consultation

Your Involvement in the Local Plan

- 8.6. To ensure your involvement is effective you will be required to:
- Make your representation/comments on the appropriate form within the specified time period;
 - Provide comments in a clear and succinct format, ensuring that representations relate to the issues and documents being consulted upon;
 - Be aware that your comments with your name attached (for local plan and planning policy consultations) will be made publicly available with personal and sensitive information redacted in line with the Council's privacy notices;

¹ [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2026](#)

- Be understanding and respectful of alternative views. We have zero tolerance of abusive language etc. All comments are moderated and any that are considered to fall short of these requirements will be rejected; and
- If you are replying on behalf of a group or organisation, consider and explain how members of the group have been involved in formulating the representation.

Role of elected councillors

- 8.7. The role of locally elected councillors in representing the views and concerns of residents in the planning process is very important. However, the views of elected councillors can only be formally considered when made on the appropriate form and within the specified time for a particular consultation.

Parish and Town Councils

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

Role of voluntary and community groups

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

Less well-represented groups

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

Please Note: News updates can only be sent to those that sign up to and remain on the Local Plan Consultation Database.

9. The Local Plan Process

- 9.1. The preparation of the Local Plan represents the most resource intensive strand of Local Plan preparation, particularly in relation to community involvement. To prepare the policies and proposals for the Development Plan, the District will consult with community and statutory authorities to establish the main issues for the document to address as part of developing policy options and key matters.

Scoping

- 9.2. This stage of the Local Plan is intended to be wide ranging and informal. It will invite discussion on the objectives of the relevant plan making document and the options available for achieving those objectives. The Council will not put forward any specific proposals at this stage.
- 9.3. The Council will also at this stage be collecting information on a range of socio-economic elements of the Local Plan, including a Call for Sites exercise alongside key housing and employment statistics.
- 9.4. The local community and stakeholders are encouraged to provide their details via email to be added to the consultation database so that they can be kept informed throughout the following stages. Any data will be held in line with the Council's Privacy Notice² and a request to be removed can be made at any time via email.
- 9.5. Representations at this stage should be on the questions raised. You will be able to comment on the appropriate form via email or letter.
- 9.6. If you are requesting the allocation of a specific site for development, then it is highly desirable that you engage with the Council at this early stage so that community involvement is maximised and appraisal work can be undertaken on the proposed site through the plan preparation process. Development proposals can be robustly assessed if the site and its proposed use are clearly defined. The Council will contact existing developers, land promoters and landowners on the consultation database regarding the Call for Sites, you can submit your land via email or letter using the available form on the Call for Sites webpage³.

Vision and Strategic Options

- 9.7. The Council will use the responses and information gathered during the Scoping stage to develop:
- Draft vision and strategic options
 - Proposed spatial strategy
 - Proposed approach in relation to policies including in relation to the amount, type and location of, and timetable for development in the district
 - Summary of evidence gathered and evidence still to gather

² [Data Protection - Privacy Notices | Cannock Chase District Council](#)

³ [Planning Policy Monitoring | Cannock Chase District Council](#)

- 9.8. This stage will set out the Council's preferred approach to delivering the objectives identified as part of the scoping stage through the proposed local plan content and evidence.
- 9.9. The community and stakeholders, including statutory organisations, will be encouraged to participate in the on-going policy development process. Following on from the scoping consultation and early engagement on key matters, the Council will consult on the proposed local plan content and evidence in the form of a Vision and Strategic Options Consultation for a minimum of 6 weeks.
- 9.10. This stage provides an opportunity for representations which suggest alternative options for delivery of the Local Plan objectives. You will be able to comment on this stage on the appropriate form via email or letter.
- 9.11. If you are requesting the allocation of a site for development you will be expected to clearly define the site, the uses proposed for the site, describe any community involvement already undertaken, and why you think that the proposed site is a more sustainable option than those put forward by the Council.

Publication and Submission

- 9.12. The Council will use the responses and information gathered through the Vision and Strategic Options consultation to:
- Draft the proposed Local Plan
 - Draft the proposed Policies Map
- 9.13. Following preparation of the Proposed Local Plan the District Council will publish a final version and invite comments on the document from the community, statutory organisations and other interested parties as part of an 8 week consultation stage.
- 9.14. This is effectively the final stage to submit formal representations to the District Council on the Proposed Local Plan. The District Council will then submit the Proposed Local Plan, Policies Map and the entire evidence base, including the representations made, to the Secretary of State for an Examination in Public.

Examination in Public

- 9.15. An independent Inspector is appointed to undertake an Examination in Public (EiP), to test the legal compliance and soundness of the proposed Local Plan whilst considering all representations made at the Publication stage.
- 9.16. Prior to the EiP, the Council must publish an advert notifying the public, including any interested parties, about details of the Examination.

- 9.17. Anybody who submitted representations and the publication stage (final consultation) will have the opportunity to present their case to the Inspector.
- 9.18. The Planning Inspector will decide on how to best proceed with the EiP, identifying issues which should be debated. Generally, the EiP includes a series of formal hearings which are chaired by the Planning Inspector.
- 9.19. A Programme Officer will be appointed from outside of the Planning Department and will be responsible for managing all the arrangements of the Examination process. Alongside acting as the liaison between the appointed Inspector and the Council, they are responsible for managing all the arrangements of the Examination process, including collating all documents, where appropriate, organising site visits and dealing with all correspondence. The Programme Officer will be the main point of contact for members of the public through the EiP.
- 9.20. During the EiP stage the Council may propose Main Modifications to the document, if these are needed to make it “sound”. If this is required a further consultation on the proposed changes will be carried out.

Adoption of the Local Plan

- 9.21. Following the conclusion of the EiP the Inspector will produce a report setting out any changes the Council must make to the document before it can be adopted. The Inspector’s report and its recommendations are binding on the Council (i.e. the Council must accept these changes should it take forward the Local Plan to adoption).
- 9.22. The modifications suggested by the Inspector must be undertaken if the Council seek to adopt the Local Plan. A formal decision must then be made by Council Members to adopt the Local Plan for planning purposes.
- 9.23. Following, a member decision to adopt, the Council must notify all consultees registered on the Planning Policy Consultation Database of their intention to adopt the document for planning purposes. A notice of adoption will be placed on the Council’s website, at the Council’s primary offices (Civic Centre) and at the 6 District Libraries and will include information on the statutory rights of appeal. An announcement would also be made on the appropriate social media channels used by the Council.

Supplementary Plans

- 9.24. Supplementary Plans (SPs) relate to specific sites or specific planning issues and have the same weight as a local plan for the purpose of decision-making. This would also include Infrastructure Levy regimes to apply at the local level for securing developer contributions in the future.
- 9.25. There is a similar process to Local Plans for SPs comprising of:
- Notice of Intention to Commence
 - The preparation and consultation of a draft SP and map of proposed policies

- Submission of documents for Examination in Public
- The Adoption of the SP by the Council

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

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

9.28. The examination of the SP will be undertaken by an independent Inspector and will be undertaken in line with the procedure set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) Section 15DB.

10. Planning Policy Consultations

Who will we consult

- 10.1. In the preparation of the Local Plan and any SPs a wide range of individuals, groups, representatives and organisations will be consulted as appropriate.
- 10.2. Cannock Chase Council wants to ensure that all stakeholders have every opportunity to be involved with the preparation of planning policy documents and no groups/organisations and individuals, including hard to reach groups, are excluded.
- 10.3. The Council maintains a database, which largely consists of those who have expressed an interest in being involved in the preparation of planning policy documents. These are identified as key stakeholders and are shown in the table below.

Residents	Businesses	Individuals
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Statutory Organisations	Parish Councils
Land Promoters	Developers	Local Interest Groups
Voluntary & Community Groups	Councillors & MPs	Landowners

- 10.4. Any resident, business or interested party can be included in this database by emailing the Council's Planning Policy Team. The data will be stored in line with UK General Data Protection Regulations and the Data Protection Act 2018 and as set out in the Council's Privacy Notice.

Statement of Common Ground/Duty to Cooperate

- 10.5. The Council previously had been required to engage with neighbouring authorities and other statutory organisations to satisfy the 'Duty to Cooperate' legal requirement under Section 110 of the Localism Act, including where appropriate through Statements of Common Ground. This was to ensure that neighbouring authorities and relevant organisations work together to meet development requirements and address any strategic cross boundary issues.
- 10.6. The Duty to Cooperate was removed under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 to streamline the plan-making process. Nevertheless, authorities still need to collaborate across their boundaries, including on unmet development needs from neighbouring areas in line with national policy which stipulates 'maintaining effective cooperation'.
- 10.7. Cannock Chase Council has worked closely with all relevant Duty to Cooperate organisations through the production of the adopted Local Plan 2018 – 2040 including neighbouring authorities and statutory consultees. The Council remain committed to effective cross-boundary collaboration and developer/land promoter communication in the preparation of future planning policy documents.

How will we consult

10.8. Cannock Chase Council will use a range of methods to involve local people and strengthen community involvement. The table below describes the various methods that may be used for consulting on planning policy documents, where appropriate.

Letters & Emails	Letters and emails set out to notify relevant stakeholders (held on the Consultation Database) about a consultation on planning policy documents
Display Documents	Documents are made available in the reception of the Council's primary offices (Civic Centre) to raise awareness of consultation on planning policy documents and how people can get involved.
Social media /Press Release	Existing Council Social Media channels are used to raise awareness about consultation on planning policy documents
Libraries	Hard copies of planning policy documents, with response forms, are distributed to local libraries within the District for people to view and make comments.
Council Website	Details of planning policy documents are published on the website for the public to view, including details of consultation and how to respond. Planning Policy Cannock Chase District Council
Public Events	Public events will be held in appropriate locations within the District to provide information on planning policy documents and an opportunity for members of the public to have queries answered.

What will we do with your comments

10.9. All representations will receive an automated response if received by e-mail. The Council will also accept comments by letter and will process them in the same manner as other representations.

10.10. All representations will be electronically recorded and then published on the Council's website in line with regulations, or through the Neighbourhood Planning Bodies website as relevant, for the public to view. They will be considered and used to help inform the production of planning policy documents.



Cannock Chase District Council New Local Plan 2026 - 2046

Draft Sustainability Appraisal (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report 2026



Draft Sustainability Appraisal (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report 2026

The Draft Sustainability Appraisal (SEA) is provided by the Planning Policy Section of Planning Services at Cannock Chase Council. To request a physical copy of the document or for information:

Write to:

Planning Policy
Cannock Chase Council
Beecroft Road
Cannock
Staffordshire
WS11 1BG

Email: planningpolicy@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Phone: (01543) 462 621

Website: <https://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy>

Non-technical summary

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

The purpose of this Scoping Report is to provide the context for, and determine the scope of, the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Cannock Chase District Local Plan 2026-2046, and to set out the framework for assessing the sustainability of the new Development Plan.

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

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

The Plan Area

Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) adopted the Plan for the District 2018 - 2040 on the 23 March 2026. The adopted Local Plan sets out the Council's vision and strategy for CCDC up to 2040. It sets out policies and allocates land for specific uses including housing, employment and retail development. It also sets out the criteria for determining planning applications and guides the decision-making process.

The Council has commenced work on a new Local Plan. Once adopted this will replace the existing District Plan recently adopted in 2026 and will set a new long term vision for the district up to 2046. This will include specific policies for the natural, historic and built environment and set out the overall spatial strategy across the district. The new Local Plan will need to be consistent with national policy, including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which at its core seeks to achieve sustainable development.

Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in the Local Plan. The process is a way to test and assess the way in which the plan can contribute to achieving economic, social and environmental sustainability, as well as identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan may have. SA's assess environmental sustainability which is a requirement of an SEA which is set out in detail in this document. Therefore, this scoping document encompasses the requirements for both an SA and SEA.

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1. Process - Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Plans to be subject to an SA. The SA is designed to ensure that the plan preparation process maximises the contribution that a plan makes to sustainable development and minimises any potential adverse impacts. The SA process involves appraising the likely environmental, social and economic effects of the policies and proposals within a plan from the outset of its development.
- 1.2 The SEA is also a statutory assessment process, originally required under the European SEA Directive, transposed in the UK by the SEA Regulations and amended by the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232). No substantive changes were made by this instrument to the way the SEA regime currently operates. Therefore, the SEA Regulations remain in force, and it is a legal requirement for the Cannock Chase Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.
- 1.3 Whilst the SEA and SA are separate processes both have similar aims and objectives, SEA focuses on the likely environmental effects of a plan whilst SA focuses on the social and economic effects of a plan, in addition to the environment.
- 1.4 The new Local Plan is being prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, which includes meeting any obligation under Part 2 and Part 3 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended). Schedule 2 of these Regulations requires assessment of the 'likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues'. These issues are listed in table 1, together with signposting to where they are addressed within this scoping document.

- 1.5 The Government's Planning Practice Guidance shows how it is possible to satisfy both requirements by undertaking a joint SA and SEA process, and to present an SA Report that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations.
- 1.6 The SA process comprises of five stages, with scoping being Stage A as shown below:
- Stage A (Scoping):** Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope.
- Stage B:** Developing and refining options and assessing effects.
- Stage C:** Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
- Stage D:** Consulting on the Local Plan and the SA Report.
- Stage E:** Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan.
- 1.7 Through the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, the Government secured powers to bring forward a new domestic framework to replace the current Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and SEA environmental assessment regimes.

Approach to scoping

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

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

Structure of the Scoping Report

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

Table 1 Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

SEA Regulations requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
Environmental report	
Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of: implementing the plan or programme; and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme. (Regulation 12(1) and (2) and Schedule 2).	The full SA Report produced to accompany the Cannock Chase District Local Plan 2026-2046 will constitute the 'environmental report' and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	These requirements are addressed in relation to each topic covered in this SA Scoping Report and subsequent SA reports.
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 importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.	
The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process. This SA Scoping
The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and	

temporary effects, positive effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as: (a) biodiversity; (b) population; (c) human health; (d) fauna; (e) flora; (f) soil; (g) water; (h) air; (i) climatic factors; (j) material assets; (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (l) landscape; and (m) the interrelationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).	Report describes the method by which significant effects will be identified.
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.	
A non-technical summary of the information is provided.	
The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may reasonably be required, taking account of: current knowledge and methods of assessment; the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme; the stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment. (Regulation 12 (3))	This SA Scoping Report and the 'environmental report' will adhere to this requirement.
Consultation	
When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies. (Regulation 12(5))	This SA Scoping Report will be published for consultation with the three statutory bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England).
Every draft plan or programme for which an environmental report has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 12 and its accompanying report ("the relevant documents") shall be made available for the purposes of consultation in accordance with the following provisions of this regulation. As soon as reasonably	Public consultation on the Cannock Chase District Local Plan and accompanying SA Reports will take place as the Local Plan develops.

practical after the preparation of the relevant documents, the responsible authority shall: send a copy of those documents to each consultation body; take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the preparation of the relevant documents to the attention of the persons who, in the authority's opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption of the plan or programme concerned, required under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Directive ("the public consultees"); inform the public consultees of the address (which may include a website) at which a copy of the relevant documents may be viewed, and the period within which, opinions must be sent. The period referred to in paragraph (2) (d) must be of such length as will ensure that the consultation bodies and the public consultees are given an effective opportunity to express their opinion on the relevant documents. (Regulation 13 (1), (2), and (3))	
Where a responsible authority, other than the Secretary of State, is of the opinion that a plan or programme for which it is the responsible authority is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another Member State, it shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after forming that opinion: notify the Secretary of State of its opinion and of the reasons for it; and supply the Secretary of State with a copy of the plan or programme concerned, and of the accompanying environmental report. (Regulation 14 (1))	Unlikely to be relevant to the Cannock District Local Plan, as there will be no effects beyond the UK.
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (relevant extracts of Regulation 16)	
As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme for which an environmental assessment has been carried out under these Regulations, the responsible authority shall: make a copy of the plan or programme and its accompanying environmental report available at its principal office for inspection by the public at all reasonable times and free of charge. (Regulation 16(1))	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
The responsible authority shall inform (i) the consultation bodies; (ii) the persons who, in relation to the plan or programme, were public consultees for the purposes of regulation 13; and (iii) where the responsible authority is not the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State, that the plan or programme has been adopted, and a statement containing the following particulars: how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme; how the environmental report has been taken into account;	

how opinions expressed in response to: (i) the invitation in regulation 13(2)(d); (ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4), have been taken into account; how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account; the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.	
Monitoring	
The responsible authority shall monitor the significant effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action. (Regulation 17(1))	Requirement will be met after adoption of the Cannock Chase District Local Plan 2026-2046.

2 Cannock District Local Plan preparation process

- 2.1 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires the SA Report to provide "An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes."
- 2.2 The current Local Plan was adopted on the 23 March 2026, the new Local Plan 2026-2046 will replace the existing Local Plan documents. The Local Plan will be a district-wide plan that will coordinate the development and growth requirements of the District over a period of 20 years. The Council is at an early stage in the development of the new Local Plan.
- 2.3 Future plan-making will need to consider changes occurring due to Local Government Reorganisation. The devolution framework sets out that there will be three types of Strategic Authorities (these are all combined authorities):
- 2.4 **Foundation Strategic Authorities** - non-mayoral Combined Authorities (CA), Level 2 County Combined Authorities (CCA), or any local authorities designated as a Strategic Authority without a mayor.
- 2.5 **Mayoral Strategic Authorities** - Greater London Authority, Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA) and Mayoral Combined County Authorities (MCCA).
- 2.6 **Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities** - any Mayoral Strategic Authorities that meet specific criteria, in particular having had a directly elected mayor for at least 18 months. Initially these will be North East, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Region Strategic Authorities.
- 2.7 The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill white paper restates the Government's ambition that all areas will ultimately have a Mayoral Strategic Authority. In two-tier areas, Government will only establish CCAs for an interim period. Councils in all 21 two-tier areas will be expected to reorganise over this Parliament and the next.
- 2.8 All areas, regardless of whether they have a Strategic Authority in place, will have to produce a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) through the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2026.
- 2.9 An SDS is a statutory land-use planning document. It will set out an investment framework for building and development across a Strategic Authority's area.
- 2.10 Strategic planning will play a vital role in delivering sustainable growth and addressing key spatial issues – including meeting housing needs, delivering strategic infrastructure, growing the economy, and improving climate resilience. Strategic planning will also be important in the delivery of Local Growth Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. It is the Government's intention to move to a model of universal strategic planning covering functional economic areas within the next five years.

Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

- 2.11 A Development Plan is not prepared in isolation, being greatly influenced by other plans, policies and programmes and by broader sustainability objectives. It needs to be consistent with international, national guidance and strategic planning policies. It should contribute to the goals of a wide range of other programmes and strategies, such as those relating to social policy, culture and heritage. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at an international, national and local level.
- 2.12 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 Appendix 1. The key plans, policies and programmes are summarised below.
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 In accordance with the UK official SEA guidance (ODPM, 2005), and supported by the UK SA and SEA guidance (updated 2020) which provides an overview of the level of detail required, no list of plans or programmes can be definitive. As a result, this report describes only the key plans, programmes and policies that may influence the Cannock District New Local Plan. International, national, regional and local policies, plans and programmes have been reviewed through this sustainability process, as outlined below.

Plans, programmes and policies

- 2.16 The relevant international, national, regional and local plans relevant to Cannock District Local Plan and the SA are listed in Appendix 1. A description of why they are relevant and how they need to be considered throughout plan development is also provided.
- 2.17 The key environmental, social and economic themes identified by this review, including relevant planning policies outlined within Government's planning policy for England (the NPPF), are shown below:

Table 2 Key environmental, social and economic theses:

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

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

	diversification of agricultural and other land-based businesses; tackle worklessness and deprivation; promote links with neighbouring economies to allow the full potential of regional strengths to be recognised.
Material assets	Improvement and better management of material assets including highways and utilities infrastructure; encourage use of sustainable materials including secondary or recycled materials before extraction or primary materials; source materials indigenously; greater provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to delivery benefits to people and the environment; and provision of better public services to deliver socio economic benefits.
Waste and minerals	Sustainable use of mineral resources and improvement in the effects on the environment of their extraction.

Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood Plans, once made/adopted, form part of the development plan for a local authority area. There are six designated Neighbourhood Areas within the District:

- Brereton and Ravenhill Parish
- Hednesford Town Council
- Norton Canes Parish
- Cannock Wood Parish
- Rugeley Town Council
- Heath Hayes and Wimblebury

Key national plans, policies and programmes

Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023

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

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

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

The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2026

- 2.20 The primary aim of the Planning and Infrastructure Act (PIA) 2026 is to reform the planning system, removing delays and blockages in planning processes. Key provisions of the Act are:

Development Consent Orders (DCOs): The Act streamlines the DCO process, reducing pre-application requirements and speeding up examination and approval stages.

Housing and Infrastructure Delivery: It facilitates the construction of up to 1.5 million new homes, accelerates major transport projects, and supports clean energy initiatives.

Environmental and Land Measures: Provisions include compulsory land purchase, environmental outcomes reporting, and powers to modify consents for electricity networks and generating stations.

Delegation and Planning Committees: The Act allows the government to introduce a national scheme of delegation, determining which planning applications are handled by committees versus officers, with mandatory training for committee members to ensure compliance with planning law.

Energy and Utilities: It prioritizes grid connections for clean power projects, supports long-duration electricity storage, and provides benefits for homes near transmission projects.

Economic Impact: The reforms are projected to inject up to £7.5 billion into the UK economy over the next decade, creating jobs, reducing congestion, and improving energy security.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2026

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

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.22** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the overarching planning framework which provides national planning policy and principles for the planning system in England. The NPPF was originally published in March 2012, and has been revised several times, the latest being December 2024. A further revision is anticipated in the Summer 2026 following the most recent NPPF consultation.
- 2.23** NPPF states that plans should *“be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development”*. The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be ‘aspirational but realistic’. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.
- 2.24** 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.
- 2.25** 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.
- 2.26 The overarching nature of the NPPF means that its implications for the SA relate to multiple topics which this report seeks to address. Considering the importance of the NPPF to the English planning system, the relevance of the Framework and its implications for the plan making process and the SA is provided in more detail below. Sustainability topics are separated into environmental, social and economic below, but consideration of issues often cuts across topics.
- 2.27 There are a wide range of plans and programmes that are specific to Cannock Chase District. These plans and programmes relate to issues such as housing, transport, renewable energy and green infrastructure, and developer contributions. A review of these documents can be found Appendix 1.

3 Baseline Information and Indicators

- 3.1 Cannock Chase District Council has collected data about the current state of the environment, economy and society to assess the effects of implementing the Development Plan from a sustainability perspective. The recently adopted Local Plan provides an up-to-date District Profile which sets out the key issues for the District, this provides the starting point and basis for the development of the emerging new Local Plan.
- 3.2 The following sections and data tables provide baseline which will be used as the basis for the monitoring of environmental and other sustainability effects as to monitor the sustainability position is improving or deteriorating in relation to the emerging Development Plan. This approach will help to identify issues and alternative ways of dealing with such issues in the future.

Social, health and wellbeing

- 3.3 Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Cannock District increased by 3.1% from 97,462 in 2011 to 100,519 residents. The working age population age population ages 16 – 64 comprised 62.6% of the population, slightly above the West Midlands (61.9%), but below the England (63.0%) averages. 19.5% of the population of Cannock Chase were aged 65+ in Mid – 2019 which was higher than the West Midlands (18.4%) and England (18.3%).
- 3.4 Population density in the District, the number of people per square mile (ppsqm), is the second highest in Staffordshire after Tamworth (2,549 ppsqm) at a rate of 1,274 people per square mile in mid – 2019. This reflects the largely urban, commercial and residential landscape of Cannock Chase.¹
- 3.5 Most of the population of the District live within Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley, with the remaining percentage of the population living within the rural areas.
- 3.6 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019² is a measure of multiple deprivation at the small area level. Seven domains of deprivation are measured – income deprivation, employment deprivation, health deprivation and disability, education skills and training deprivation, barriers to housing and services, crime and living environment deprivation. Each domain contains a number of indicators. The seven domains are combined to give a multiple deprivation score. The data is now based on identified neighbourhoods known as ‘Super Output Areas’ (SOAs) rather than wards.
- 3.7 According to the 2019 IMD, Cannock Chase is ranked as the most deprived district in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke-on-Trent), with a rank of 133 out of 317 local authorities nationally. There was a particularly low rank for education, skills and training where the District was ranked 48 out of 326.
- 3.8 The Locality Profile for Cannock Chase³ District presents ward level data which shows that there are nine lower super output areas (LSOAs) that fall within the most deprived national quintile in Cannock Chase, making up around 14% of the total population (13,500 people). These areas fall within Brereton and Ravenhill, Cannock East, Cannock North, Cannock South, Etching Hill and The Heath and Hednesford North.
- 3.9 A fuel poor household is defined as one which needs to spend more than 10% of its income on all fuel use and to heat its home to an adequate standard of warmth. In 2015, 10.5% of households (4,347 households) in Cannock Chase were deemed to be in fuel poverty which was below the County average of 12.0% and the regional average of 13.5%.

¹ Office for National Statistics, Population profiles for Local Authorities in England, December 2020.

² [English indices of deprivation 2019 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019)

³ [Locality Profile | Cannock Chase District Council](#)

Health

- 3.10 Cannock Chase exhibits a mixed health profile, with several indicators performing broadly in line with national averages but with persistent inequalities and lifestyle-related challenges. Life expectancy remains broadly comparable to national levels, and mortality rates from cardiovascular diseases have been relatively stable in recent years. Levels of physical activity have shown improvement, reflecting increased participation in sport and recreation, supported by investment in leisure facilities across the District.
- 3.11 However, health outcomes are constrained by above-average levels of obesity among both adults and children, which have remained largely unchanged over time. Wider measures of wellbeing, including happiness and life satisfaction, have also shown limited improvement, indicating ongoing social and health pressures affecting residents⁴. Overall, these factors highlight a pattern of stable but uneven health outcomes, with clear links to socio-economic conditions and the quality of the built environment influencing long-term health and wellbeing⁴.
- 3.12 Health outcomes in Cannock Chase are generally stable but characterised by persistent inequalities, above-average obesity levels, and limited improvement in wellbeing, indicating a continued need for planning policies that promote active lifestyles, healthy environments, and equitable access to services.

Ageing Population

- 3.13 The majority of local authorities across England are projected to see an increase in the proportion of residents at State Pension age by 2032. 21% of the Cannock Chase population are forecast to be aged 65+ in 2032, compared to 19% in 2022. The old age dependency ratio (the number of people of State Pension age for every 1,000 working age persons) is projected to rise from 292 to 306 by 2032 which is above the forecast England average of 287.1.
- 3.14 The average (median) age of Cannock District increased by two years, from 40 to 42 years of age. This area had a higher average (median) age than the West Midlands as a whole in 2021 (40 years) and a higher average (median) age than England (40 years). The number of people aged 75 to 84 years rose by around 6%, while the number of residents between 35 and 49 years fell by just under 3,900 (17.3% decrease). Overall, these trends reflect a shift towards an older profile, consistent with wider demographic patterns across England.

⁴ [Authority Monitoring Report 2025.pdf](#)

Housing

- 3.15 The total population in households in Cannock District that the time of the 2021 Census was a total of 43,459 households. 67.1% of households in the District are owner-occupiers without a mortgage, compared to 34.4% in the region and 32.5% nationally. The proportion of owner-occupiers with a mortgage in Cannock District (31.7%) is also higher than both the regional (31.4%) and national average (28.8%).
- 3.16 Some 16% of households in Cannock District are resident in the Social Rented sector, lower than the figure for the West Midlands (18.2%) and England (17.1%). Finally, some 16% of households in Cannock District live in private rented accommodation, compared to 18.1% in the West Midlands and 20.6% in England.

Affordable Housing

- 3.17 Cannock Chase experiences a clear and sustained demand for affordable housing. The most recent data indicates that there are approximately 1,192 households on the housing register, representing those actively seeking affordable accommodation. Demand is particularly concentrated among smaller dwellings, with the majority of applicants requiring 1–2 bedroom properties. This sits alongside an estimated 5,000–6,500 affordable dwellings across the District, including both council-owned and registered provider stock.
- 3.18 Recent monitoring indicates that affordable housing delivery remains relatively low compared to demand. The 2024/25 Authority Monitoring Report shows that 60 affordable homes were completed in the monitoring year, continuing a pattern of modest annual delivery. At the same time, the Local Plan identifies a significant annual need for affordable housing (previously c.197 dwellings per year), suggesting that current delivery rates are consistently below required levels.
- 3.19 The 2026 Cannock Chase Local Plan (Policy SO3.2: Housing Choice) maintains a requirement of approximately 20% affordable housing on qualifying sites. However, given site viability constraints and the limited scale of development within a largely Green Belt authority, this policy is unlikely to fully address identified need over the plan period.
- 3.20 Vacancy Rates as of October 2025, it is estimated that there are 1,210 vacant homes in Cannock Chase (data source MHCLG, Live Table 615⁵).
- 3.21 There is a significant and persistent shortfall in affordable housing provision in Cannock Chase, with current delivery rates insufficient to meet identified need, indicating a key sustainability challenge for the Local Plan.

⁵ [Live tables on dwelling stock \(including vacants\) - GOV.UK](#)

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 3.22 In relation to Gypsies and Travellers, the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment (GTANA), published in 2019, identified a need for 19 pitches to be delivered between 2018 and 2036 with a longer term need of an additional 10 pitches. Since 2018 the Council has granted permission for 13 pitches.⁶ The most recent Traveller Caravan Count shows there are 48 caravans on authorised sites and 11 on sites without planning permission.
- 3.23 The current Local Plan evidence acknowledges that not all identified need can necessarily be met within the district, due to Green Belt and environmental constraints.

⁶ [Authority Monitoring Report 2025.pdf](#)

Indicators: Social, Health and Wellbeing Baseline Data

Please see table below.

Indicator	Quantified data (for Cannock District unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment / Trend	Issues Identified?	Action/Issues for Plan/SA
Ageing population (percentage aged 65 and over) ⁷	2026 (estimate) 19.7%	2026 (estimate) West Midlands: 18.9% England: 18.7%	Cannock District 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)	2026 13.1% of people in the most deprived quartile	West Midlands: 29.9% of people in the most deprived quartile	Cannock District has nine lower super output areas (LSOAs) that fall within the most deprived national quintile.	Favourable situation against regional and national rankings	Focus on reducing deprivation within communities across the District.
Statutory homelessness ⁸ (homelessness acceptances per 1000 households)	April 2024 to March 2026 4.3 %	England: 12.4%	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Focus on reducing homelessness in the District.
Affordable housing completions	2024 / 2025: 60	Since 2022, Cannock District has delivered 197 affordable homes. Annual average target of 65 dwellings per annum	Performing well against the District's target	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the District.
Housing Affordability Ratio (ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings) ⁹	2026 Ratio: 6.28	England and Wales ratio: 7.55 Regional average: 6.80	Similar to the national ratio	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Provide a housing mix to ensure a range of housing

⁷ [Local area data | Staffordshire County Council](#)

⁸ [Tables on homelessness - GOV.UK](#)

⁹ [Housing affordability in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#) (local authority housing affordability analysis)

Total recorded crime excl. fraud (rate per 1000) Error! Bookmark not defined.	2026: 68.7	West Midlands: 89.8 England: 88.6	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the District
Lone pensioner households Error! Bookmark not defined.	2026: 12.6%	West Midlands: 13.1% England: 12.8%	Performing slightly worse than the regional and national average	Slightly unfavourable position	Improve the current position across the District
Physical activity in adults (percentage) Error! Bookmark not defined.	2022/23: 67.3%	West Midlands: 64.0% England: 67.1%	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Continue to promote physical activity in Cannock District
Adults who are overweight or obese Error! Bookmark not defined.	2022-23: 76%	West Midlands: 67% England: 64.0%	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	unfavourable position	Continue to promote physical activity in Cannock District
Limiting long-term illness (percentage) Error! Bookmark not defined.	2021: 20.2%	West Midlands: 18.1% England: 17.3%	Performing slightly better than the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the District
Mortality from causes considered preventable (ASR per 100,000) Error! Bookmark not defined.	2021-2023: 183.8 (515)	Stafford: 136.4 (558) Staffordshire: 152.4 (3,913) West Midlands: 176.8 (27,458) England: 163.7 (243,060)	Performing well against the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the District
Depression prevalence (ages 18+)	2022/23: 16.6%	Staffordshire: 14.2% West Midlands: 14% England: 13.2%	The figures are slightly higher than the regional and average	Unfavourable position	Continue to work with partners to support mental health across the District
Neighbourhood Development Plans	Since 2011: 6 areas designated 2 with 'made' plans	No comparators	No trends	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Continue to support community groups creating Neighbourhood Development Plans

Economic Baseline Data

- 3.24 Cannock Chase District lies in the central part of Staffordshire and can be characterised as having three distinct economic sub areas; Cannock, Hednesford and Heath Hayes; Rugeley and Brereton in the north of the District; and Norton Canes in the south - east. Situated just north of the West Midlands conurbation, the District extends from the A5 in the south, to the River Trent in Rugeley in the north covering approximately 7,800 hectares.
- 3.25 For many years, Cannock Chase was closely associated with the coal mining industry. In recent times, the District's economy has diversified and is now seen as a modern mixed economy and is home to many significant local, regional, national and international companies which represent a number of key sectors including logistics/ distribution, automotive and construction.
- 3.26 Cannock Chase has a relatively stable but structurally constrained local economy, characterised by a strong employment rate but ongoing productivity and skills challenges. The employment rate remains relatively high, with approximately 62.9% of the population economically active, slightly above regional and national averages¹⁰.
- 3.27 The District has a diverse base of local businesses, largely comparable to national trends, although it is dominated by small enterprises. Employment is primarily concentrated in managerial, professional and associate professional occupations, reflecting some degree of economic diversification away from its traditional manufacturing base. However, the proportion of residents with higher-level qualifications (Levels 2–4) remains below both regional and national averages, highlighting a persistent skills gap¹¹.
- 3.28 In terms of land and economic development, the District has delivered approximately 83.63 hectares of employment land between 2006/07 and 2024/25, averaging around 4.6 hectares per annum, and maintains a surplus supply of employment land for future growth. Despite positive growth, structural issues remain, including a historic dependence on industrial sectors, relatively lower skills attainment, and the need to improve job quality and productivity. Overall, this reflects a moderately performing local economy, with strengths in employment levels but ongoing challenges in skills, resilience, and economic diversification.
- 3.29 The Cannock District Economic Prosperity Strategy 2022-2032 sets out the economic objectives for the District.
- 3.30 In 2019 63,400 - around 62.9% of residents were working age with approximately 84.6% of economically active people in employment between July 2019 and June 2020. This rate of employment was above the West Midlands average of 74.7% and the England average of 76.2%.(Source: Office for National Statistics).

¹⁰ NOMIS / CCDC data – employment rate and economic activity levels (2024/25).

¹¹ [Authority Monitoring Report 2025.pdf](#)

- 3.31 Skills levels are a challenge for the District. The Indices of Deprivation 2019 ranks Cannock Chase just outside the 10% most deprived local authority district nationally for education, skills and training. Educational attainment at GCSE level is typically below comparator averages, with around 55.6% of the working-age population estimated to be qualified to NVQ Level 3+ in 2019 - below the Great Britain average of 58.5%. The gap between local and national qualification levels is more evident at NVQ Level 4+, with 34.3% of the District's 16-64 population estimated to hold this level of qualification in 2019, compared to 40.3% nationally.
- 3.32 Work patterns have changed since and during the Covid 19 pandemic with 25.2% of Staffordshire residents said that they worked mainly at or from home, lower than national (31.5%) but slightly higher than the overall former Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area (23.1%). This is likely impacted by more people working in sectors where home working was not possible, for example retail and construction.
- 3.33 The District is highly accessible, and this is a strength that has helped to stimulate considerable economic growth in recent years. One of the District's major advantages is its connectivity to the strategic road network including the M6 Toll. Consequently, logistics and distribution features strongly in the local economy. Furthermore, the District benefits from a network of bus routes and railway stations at Rugeley, Hednesford and Cannock providing connections to Staford in the north and Birmingham to the south.

Indicators Economic Baseline Data

Please see below table

Indicator	Quantified data (for Cannock District unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment/Trend	Issues Identified?	Action/Issues for Plan/SA
Qualifications NVQ Level 4 or above (percentage) ¹²	2026 NVQ 21.9% <i>No qualifications:</i> 19.3%	NVQ : West Midlands: 29.4% Great Britain: 33.9% <i>No qualifications:</i> West Midlands: 21.1% Great Britain: 18.1%	Below the regional and national average	Unfavourable position	Maintain good performance
Number of enterprises ¹³	2026 5,370	West Midlands: 216,145	Performing below the national and regional average	Favourable/Unfavourable position	Improve upon current position
Number of enterprises local units ¹⁴	2026 6,350	West Midlands: 252,320	Performing below the national and regional average	Favourable/Unfavourable position	Improve upon current position
Completion of land employment provision	4.93 Hectares (ha) completed 2024/25: 4.93ha	Local Plan target of 88 hectares over the plan period which is an average of 4 hectares per annum.	Employment land completions have been on target.	Favourable position	To support economic growth there is an ongoing need to deliver more employment land across the District

¹² Staffordshire Observatory - [Local area data](#) | [Staffordshire County Council](#)

¹³ UK Business Counts 2026 [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

¹⁴ UK Business Counts 2026 [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Percentage of vacant retail units (Cannock Town Centre)¹⁵	Dec 2025 Cannock Town Centre: 29.7%	England: 11%	Performing poorly against the national average	Unfavourable position	Deliver ways to reduce vacant units in town centre
Job Seekers Allowance (percentage)¹⁶	Feb 2026 2%	West Midlands: 5.3% England: 1.9%	Cannock District is performing well compared to the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain strong performance
Youth unemployment (185-24 claimant counts)Error! Bookmark not defined.	December 2024: 3.4%	Staffordshire: 4.8% West Midlands: 7.4%	Cannock District is performing well compared to the regional and national average	Slightly favourable position	Maintain strong performance

¹⁵ Cannock Chase District Council data / Local Data Company

¹⁶ Nomis - [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Environmental Baseline Data

- 3.34 Cannock Chase District contains a high-quality natural and built environment, but one that is subject to significant environmental constraints and pressures. A large proportion of the District is designated as Green Belt, alongside internationally important ecological assets such as the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which requires careful management to avoid recreational and development-related impacts. Biodiversity conditions are generally stable or improving, with many Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) classified as “unfavourable but recovering”, reflecting ongoing positive management interventions¹⁷.
- 3.35 Air quality has shown improvement, with some Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) being revoked due to sustained compliance with national objectives, these are Watling Street Cannock, declared in 2026 and removed in 2023 and Fiveways, Heath Hayes declared in 2017 and removed in 2023, although monitoring continues in remaining areas.
- 3.36 Water quality remains a concern, with rivers within the Trent catchment failing to achieve good ecological and chemical status, reflecting wider national issues. Carbon emissions per capita have declined over time, driven by technological improvements and policy interventions.
- 3.37 The historic environment is a strength, there are no heritage assets currently identified as ‘at risk’, and all conservation areas supported by up-to-date appraisals. Nonetheless, environmental constraints—including flood risk, biodiversity sensitivities, and land availability—limit development opportunities and influence spatial strategy. Overall, the environmental baseline is characterised by high environmental quality, improving trends in some areas, but ongoing pressures relating to biodiversity, water quality, and development constraints.
- 3.38 The information used to characterise the baseline environment is broadly high level in nature and reflects the high-level nature of the Local Plan. It has been obtained from a broad range of sources and no new investigations or surveys have been undertaken as part of the scoping process. The baseline information will be required throughout the SA process and may require updating as the Local Plan is developed and further and new evidence becomes available.

¹⁷ [Authority Monitoring Report 2025.pdf](#)

Landscape

Landscape character

The Cannock Chase and Cannock Wood National Character Area (NCA) lies within the District and is described by Natural England¹⁸ below:

NCA 67 Cannock Chase and Cannock Wood:

Summary

A varied landscape ranging from the open heathlands and plantations of Cannock Chase including the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), through towns, reclaimed mining sites and new developments, to dense urban areas. Extensive coniferous plantations, woodlands and historic parklands occur across the NCA, even within the urban areas where they are predominantly small and include lots of young plantations.

Key Characteristics

A varied landscape ranging from the open heathlands and plantations of Cannock Chase, through towns, reclaimed mining sites and new developments, to dense urban areas. The dominant rounded central plateau is mainly formed of the Coal Measures of the South Staffordshire Coalfield, with other prominent hills in the south at Wren's Nest, Castle Hill, Rowley Hills and Barr Beacon. Extensive coniferous plantations, woodlands and historic parklands occur across the NCA, even within the urban areas where they are predominantly small and include lots of young plantations. Away from the unenclosed landscape of Cannock Chase, fields generally have a regular pattern and are frequently enclosed by mature hedgerows with some hedgerow trees. Here farming is generally mixed with arable cultivation in large fields. Livery is concentrated around the flanks of the Chase. Heathland and associated acid grassland were once much more extensive, although significant tracts still remain. Post-industrial sites and remnant countryside within the urban areas provide a mosaic of additional valuable habitats. The major rivers of the Trent and Tame lie adjacent to the NCA, both of which lie in broad flood plains. Streams and small rivers such as the Sow and the Penk drain radially from the higher ground into these rivers. The canal network is a notable feature and contributes significantly to the drainage of the urban areas. Industrial archaeology from the industrial revolution is a characteristic feature. The predominant building material of the 19th- and early 20th century buildings is red brick, with more modern structures within the urban areas. The settlement pattern is complex and contrasting, with some areas densely populated and others relatively sparse. The conurbation includes a mosaic of urban areas, former industrial land and patches of farmland, with an extensive urban fringe. The extensive networks of canals and railways reflect the industrial history of the area. Major roads include the M6, the M6 Toll and the A5.

¹⁸ Natural England – National Character Area Profiles (2026) [Natural England - National Character Area Profiles - National Character Area Profiles](#)

Landscape designations and biodiversity

Landscape designations

- 3.39 Cannock Chase District is extensively covered by Green Belt, which covers a significant proportion of the southern and western parts of the District as part of the wider West Midlands Green Belt. Approximately 60% of Cannock Chase District's land area is covered by Green Belt and the Cannock Chase National Landscape, equating to an estimated 4,500–5,000 hectares of land within the District.
- 3.40 Green Belt plays a critical role in preventing urban sprawl between Cannock, Rugeley, and the adjoining settlements of the West Midlands conurbation, while also safeguarding the open character of the countryside and supporting ecological and landscape functions. The presence of the Green Belt, combined with other environmental designations such as the Cannock Chase National Landscape and Special Area of Conservation, significantly limits the availability of land for development and shapes the spatial strategy of the Local Plan.
- 3.41 Annual monitoring indicates that only very limited development occurs within the Green Belt, generally restricted to appropriate uses or minor development, reflecting the strong policy protection applied to these areas. While this provides a robust mechanism for protecting landscape quality and preventing coalescence of settlements, it also contributes to development pressure on non-Green Belt land, particularly in accessible urban areas. The need to balance the protection of Green Belt land with meeting housing and employment needs remains a key planning challenge for the District..

Historic Parks and Gardens

- 3.42 A register of historic parks and gardens is kept by English Heritage. Currently there are no Registered Historic Parks and Gardens within Cannock Chase District.

Biodiversity

The District has diverse ecological assets including:

- **International Designations:** Special Area of Conservation (SAC): 1 site (Cannock Chase SAC)
- **National Designations**
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs): 1 principal site (Cannock Chase SSSI, largely overlapping with the SAC)
- **Local / Non-Statutory Designations**
 - Local Nature Reserves (LNRs): 2 sites
 - Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) / Local Wildlife Sites (LWS): 40+ sites
- **Wetland Designations**
 - Ramsar Sites: 0 sites within the District

- 3.43 Cannock Chase contains biodiversity of national and international importance, with the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) representing the most significant designation. The SAC covers approximately 1,244 hectares and is designated for its extensive lowland heathland habitats, which are among the most important in the Midlands. The SAC is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), with many areas currently in “unfavourable but recovering” condition due to active management. In addition, the District includes a network of Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites, which contribute to ecological connectivity. There are no Ramsar sites within Cannock Chase, although internationally important wetland sites exist elsewhere in Staffordshire.
- 3.44 The District contains a single nationally designated landscape. Cannock Chase was originally designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1958 in recognition of its exceptional landscape quality, biodiversity, and historical significance. In November 2023, this designation was formally renamed as a National Landscape.
- 3.45 Cannock Chase represents the largest remaining area of lowland heathland in the Midlands, a habitat that is both internationally rare and highly threatened. In addition to its heathland, the National Landscape comprises extensive areas of forest and woodland, as well as pockets of designed parkland, active sand and gravel extraction sites, and areas of mixed agriculture. A substantial northern part of this designated landscape lies within the Cannock Chase District boundary.
- 3.46 Cannock Chase District Council works in partnership with Natural England and neighbouring local authorities—Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire District Council, and Staffordshire County Council—to support the Cannock Chase National Landscape Unit. This partnership oversees the delivery of the Cannock Chase National Landscape Management Plan through a Joint Committee and Officer Working Group, alongside contributions from a wider range of partner organisations on specific projects.
- 3.47 The District is also part of the Cannock Chase SAC Partnership, which brings together local authorities, landowners (including Staffordshire County Council), and advisory bodies such as Natural England and the National Landscape team. The partnership is responsible for developing and implementing a coordinated mitigation strategy to address the recreational impacts on the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Indicators Environmental Baseline

Please see below table

Indicator	Quantified data (for Cannock District unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment/Trend	Issues Identified?	Action/Issues for Plan/SA
Housing completions on Previously Developed Land (PDL) (percentage)¹⁹	2024/25: 24%	Average 2018/19 to 2024/25: 35%	Decreasing percentage of housing completions on PDL	Unfavourable condition	Continue to maximise Housing completions on PDL
Travel to work²⁰	2021 Car / Van: 31,258 (64%) Bicycle: 432 (0.9%) On foot: 3,035 (6.2%)	West Midlands: Car/Van: 1,396,152 (52.9%) Bicycle: 38,436 (1.5%) On foot: 185,913 (7%)	Not performing well against the Regional average	Unfavourable position	Continue to promote more sustainable modes of travel
Percentage of household waste²¹	2024/25 35.3%	England: 43.8%	Performing below the national average	Favourable/Unfavourable position	Maintain / improve current performance
Developer contributions to the Cannock Chase Special Area of	2024/25: £25,962.52 has been collected and is available	No comparators	No trends	Continue to collect contributions to protect and enhance the SAC	Maintain / improve current performance

¹⁹ [Authority Monitoring Report 2025.pdf](#)

²⁰ [Nomis - 2021 Census Area Profile - Cannock Chase Local Authority, West Midlands Region and England Country](#)

²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>

Conservation (SAC)²²	to spend post 1 April 2026.				
Quality of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)²³	Most recent data available for each site is 2013	Approximately 92% of their area in a 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition		Slightly unfavourable condition	Enhance the quality of SSSIs in the District
Water quality²⁴	Most recent date is from 2022	River Trent Basin	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 District.

²² [Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024-25.pdf](#)

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

²⁴ [River basin management plans: updated 2022 - GOV.UK](#)

4 Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- 4.1 The purpose of the scoping stage is to focus the SA on the sustainability issues which are relevant to the New Local Plan 2026-2046. The assessment will focus on those effects that are likely to be significant, whether positive or negative.
- 4.2 In accordance with Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, the SEA must consider the "likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium, and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects".
- 4.3 Through analysis of the baseline data several key sustainability issues for Cannock Chase District have been identified to focus the Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the Development Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework is made up of sustainability objectives, indicators and targets tailored to these key issues thus enabling a meaningful assessment of how successful each document has been in addressing these issues and opportunities. Nevertheless, it is recognised in Appendix 1 of this Scoping Report that other Plans, Policies and Programmes may affect the success of each plan document.
- 4.4 The table below sets out the key sustainability issues identified for the Cannock Chase District area, based on the baseline information gathered for the Sustainability Appraisal process. There may be additional sustainability issues, problems and opportunities for the District that hasn't been identified through the collection of baseline data.

Table 3: Key Sustainability Appraisal Issues identified for the District.

Key Sustainability issues for Cannock Chase	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan
The population aged 65 years and over is growing disproportionately to the remaining population. This will have implications for the economy, service provision, accommodation and health.	An ageing population in Cannock Chase is likely to continue regardless of the adoption of the Local Plan, reflecting national trends. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the new Local Plan, it offers the opportunity to update and develop these through additional policies that may help to ensure development is designed to meet the specific needs of older people.
There is a need for more housing to meet local needs in the District including meeting any potential requirement from the wider Greater Birmingham HMA.	The new Local Plan offers opportunities to build on this through additional policies and standards and definitions of what is affordable can be updated. Without the implementation of the site allocations to be included in the new Local Plan, there may be less certainty about the delivery of affordable housing in appropriate locations

There is also a particular need to address the shortfall in affordable housing in the District. While the median affordable housing ratio for Cannock Chase is 6.0 which is lower than the national average, housing in the District is still relatively unaffordable particularly for first time buyers	
Cannock Chase is ranked as the most deprived District in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke on Trent).	The new Local Plan offers an opportunity for additional policies to be adopted to specifically address the issue of deprivation in the District.
Adult education attainment is lower than average and there is disparity in educational attainment within the different areas of the District itself, contributing to structural weaknesses in the local economy.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop the overarching policy through additional policies and site allocations that are selected following consideration of their proximity to educational facilities through SA.
Health inequalities the identified health priorities for the District relating to childhood obesity, overall obesity and wellbeing are unlikely to be suitably addressed unless further measures are taken.	The new Local Plan addressed unless preventative measures are taken. also offers the opportunity to ensure healthcare priorities are specifically addressed through additional policies.
Car dependency in the area is high, there is the potential for further traffic growth without planning intervention which could have implications for air quality in the District.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to set out policies and a spatial distribution which encourages the use of sustainable transport. It may also address this issue through the allocation of appropriate sites that are selected following consideration of their impact on transport patterns through SA, and through the incorporation of mitigation through site specific policies. Therefore, without the new Local Plan this issue is unlikely to be addressed. The new Local Plan also offers the opportunity to set out green infrastructure standards which could encourage the use of more sustainable methods of transport. However, it is recognized that ongoing rail improvements could encourage modal shift even in the absence of a Local Plan.
Climate change is likely to affect biodiversity	Climate change is likely to have ongoing effects regardless of the adoption of the new Local Plan. The new Local Plan may

and lead to increased hazards from surface water and fluvial flooding and increased temperatures.	offer additional opportunities to address this issue, for example by allocating sites that are selected following consideration of their impacts on issues such as floodrisk.
Continue to improve and monitor air quality.	Air quality has improved with the de-designation of two AQMA's in the District in 2023, however the new Local Plan offers the opportunity to continue to improve and mitigate the impacts of Air Quality and continue to fully address this issue.
The chemical status of rivers is 'poor' for a large proportion of the District.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to continue to improve and mitigate this issue and improve water quality in the District.
The SFRA shows that parts of the Cannock Chase are at risk from fluvial flooding. The watercourses within the Cannock Chase Council area impose a fluvial flood risk to urban areas, particularly Risking Brook, Risings Brook and Wash Brook.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to continue to address this issue and allocate development sites that are selected following consideration of their impacts on flood risk through the SA and to incorporate mitigation into site specific policies where appropriate, in order to reduce the impacts of new development.
There are increasing requirements to improve recycling and avoid sending waste to landfill.	The new Local Plan offers opportunities to develop additional policies to address waste management within new developments, which could mean that the issue is more likely to be addressed if the plan is adopted.
There are several sensitive ecological sites within the District, including Cannock Chase SAC (the Zone of Influence for which extends for a 15km radius around the SAC), and Cannock Extension Canal SAC which need to be protected to ensure no harm arises from development.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop policy and through site allocations to select sites based on their proximity and impact on the SAC and zone of influence through the site selection process and SA. Site specific policies may also offer the opportunity for mitigation to reduce the impact of new development.
39% of the district falls within the Cannock Chase AONB which is under pressure from development.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop policy and through site allocations to select sites based on their proximity and impact on the AONB through the site selection process and SA. Site specific policies may also offer the opportunity for mitigation to reduce the impact of new development.
Although none of the heritage assets in Cannock Chase are at Risk, there are	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop policy and through site allocations to select sites based on their heritage impact through the site selection process and

numerous important built heritage assets that should be preserved and enhanced. Furthermore, these assets are continuing to face pressures for change.	SA. Site specific policies may also offer the opportunity for mitigation to reduce the impact of new development.
60% of the District is designated as Green Belt and this is under pressure from urban influences and the demand for land to accommodate new development.	Pressures on the countryside are likely to continue regardless of the adoption of the new Local Plan, particularly further housing growth is required to meet increasing housing needs and to help to meet the shortfall arising from the wider Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area. However, without a new plan in place, further unplanned development may not come forward in the most appropriate locations for development and the pressure for development in the countryside may be increased.

5 Sustainability Objectives

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 The following sustainability topics and objectives are proposed for the Sustainability Appraisal Framework:
 - 1. Protect and enhance biodiversity, fauna and flora, and geodiversity.**
 - Biodiversity
 - Flora
 - Fauna
 - 2. Minimise pollution and protect and enhance air, water and soil quality.**
 - Air
 - Water
 - Soil

3. Ensure development makes efficient use of previously developed land and buildings

Soil

4. Adapt to the impacts of, and minimise factors contributing to, climate change.

Climate Change

5. Reduce the risk of flooding

Climate Change

Material Assets

6. Protect, enhance and manage the character and quality of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.

Landscape

7. Make sustainable use of resources and minimise waste generation

Material Assets

Water

Soil

8. Encourage and facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport.

Material Assets

Climate Change

9. Ensure all people are able to live in a decent home which meets their needs.

Material Assets

Population

10. Raise educational aspirations and attainment within the District and ensure that educational facilities are provided where they are required

Material Assets

Population

11. Reduce crime and the fear of crime

Population

12. Improve public health and ensure health facilities are accessible for those in need

Human Health

13. Protect, enhance and create open spaces for leisure and recreation

Population

Human Health

14. Provide easy access to community services and facilities to meet people's needs

Population

Material Assets

15. Help the continued regeneration of the local economy by protecting existing employment sites and ensuring there is adequate provision of new sites

Population

Material Assets

16. Enhance the town centres in order to protect and improve their vitality and viability

Population

Material Assets

17. Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment

Cultural Heritage

services and facilities to meet people's needs. Population

Material assets

15 Help the continued regeneration of the local economy by protecting existing employment sites and

ensuring there is adequate provision of new sites.

Population

Material Assets

16 Enhance the town centres in order to protect and improve their vitality and viability. Population

Material Assets

17 Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment. Cultural heritage

6 Methodology for preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Reports

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

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

Stage B2 - Developing the Options for each plan document

Stage B3 and B4 - Predicting and Evaluating the Effects of the plan document

Stage C - Preparing the SA Report

Stage D - Consulting on the preferred options and the SA Report

Stage E - Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan document

Stage B2 - Developing and Refining the Plan Options

- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Commentary will also test the compatibility of the Plan Objectives with each other, using the table below. Where there a positive or negative impact 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 policy conflicts within the assessment and objectives which will be assessed as part of the process.

- 6.5 During the preparation of the Proposed Local Plan content and evidence various policies will then be developed in order to meet the Plan Objectives. Each of these policies will be tested through the Sustainability Appraisal Framework to identify the sustainability effects of each policy and to assess its performance in terms of sustainability.
- 6.6 The various policies and alternatives will be appraised against the sustainability objectives to establish whether the effect is positive, negative or uncertain through the short, medium and long-term perspective. For example, will the policy create two jobs or a hundred jobs; will the policy temporarily cause noise pollution whilst buildings are constructed or lead to a more permanent noise infringement. As such, during this Sustainability Commentary stage general differences between the alternatives will be considered and documented. Further details will be duly assessed as the policies are developed and the Plan document's progress through the various stages.

Key to SA scores to be assessed against the SA objectives:

++	Option/Policy significant positive effect on the SA objective
+/-	Option/Policy significant positive/minor negative effect on the SA objective
+	Option/Policy positive effect on the SA objective
0	Option/Policy negligible effect on the SA objective
-	Option/Policy negative effect on the SA objective
-/+	Option/Policy significant negative/minor positive effect on the SA objective
--	Option/Policy significant positive effect on the SA objective
?	Uncertain effect due to lack of data
00	Option/Policy equal effect on the SA objective

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

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

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

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

6.10 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 Cannock Chase District Council will try and enhance its positive and beneficial effects.

6.11 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.

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

6.13 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.

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

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

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

- 6.16 The Revised Sustainability Appraisal Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the Local 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.
- 6.17 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 4: Environmental Report

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

heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	
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.	
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	
Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental/sustainability appraisal report (Art 5.4)	
Authorities with environmental, social or economic responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental/sustainability appraisal report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, Art. 6.2)	
Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (art. 7)	
Taking the environmental / sustainability appraisal report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art.8)	
Provision of information on the decision:	
When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art. 7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed: The plan or programme as adopted A statement summarising how environmental, social and economic considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental/sustainability appraisal report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations	

entered into pursuant to Art.7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8 and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and The measures decided concerning monitoring (Art.9)	
Monitoring of the significant environmental, social and economic effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art 10.)	
Quality assurance: environmental/sustainability appraisal reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.	

Examination of the Plan

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

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

6.19 After Cannock Chase District 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.

6.20 Monitoring will allow the actual effects of the Plan document to be tested against those predicted in the Sustainability Appraisal Reports through the Authorities Monitoring Report. 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.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 6.21 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.
- 6.22 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.

7 Next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal process

Consultation

- 7.1 A key aspect of the SA process is consultation. The SA process provides a mechanism to ensure that stakeholder engagement requirements are achieved by providing interested parties/organisations and the public an opportunity to inform the process and comment on decisions taken. Stakeholder engagement also ensures that environmental and social issues, constraints and opportunities are identified and assessed at an early stage of the project.
- 7.2 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive, the views of three statutory consultees (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) are being sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA report. In addition to these bodies, public consultation is encouraged as a means by which to help set the environmental context and determine the scope of assessment.

How can I have my say on this consultation document?

- 7.3 Consultation on the new Local Plan 2026-2046: Sustainability Appraisal (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report will take place between Monday 3 August 2026 and until 5pm 14 September 2026. Please provide any responses by on 5pm 14 September 2026.
- 7.4 We strongly encourage responses to be made using the response form available on the Council's website and email completed forms to planningpolicy@connockdc.gov.uk or via post to Planning Policy, Cannock Chase Council, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG.

How will my comments be used?

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

Protecting Your Privacy

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

- 7.7 We will only use your personal information to send you information on the Local Plan and associated planning policy matters. You can find information about how we handle your personal data by visiting the Privacy Notices on the Council's website²⁵ and if you have any queries or would like to unsubscribe from receiving information, please contact the Planning Policy Team using the details above.

²⁵ <https://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/council/about-us/data-protection/data-protection-privacy-notice>

8 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, tranquillity, 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

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, and has been revised subsequently. The document sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

National Playing Fields Association (NPFA)	A charity where the aim is to acquire, protect and improve playing fields and other recreational space for the community.
Net Gain	The useful and/or positive benefits remaining after all deductions have been made.
Non-statutory Designations	A designation not enacted, created, or regulated by statute.
Objective	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.
Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)	The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) was established to support the NPPF. PPG provides detailed guidance across a number of specific categories.
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.

Appendix 1: Relevant Plans, policies and programmes

The SEA Directive requires the production of the following information:

“an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;” Annex 1 (a); and

“the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;” Annex 1 (e).

The following tables set out the relevant international, national, sub – national and local plans, policies and programmes. Additionally, there are a number of evidence base documents that will help to inform the local plan and help to inform policies, these are found on the Council’s Evidence Base page.

Table of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key Implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
International		
European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) ETS No. 176 (2000)	The Convention promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscape and organises co-operation between Member States on landscape issues. The Convention supports the identification and assessment of landscape character and the setting of landscape quality objectives. These objectives should then inform the basis of landscape protection, management and development activities.	The Local Plan should seek to develop policies that take account of the Convention and ensure that decision-making is informed by landscape character and quality assessments. The Local Plan offers an important opportunity to support the protection of important landscape characteristics and enhancement of urban and rural landscapes across the district. However, there is also a risk that the Local Plan could conflict with the Convention where new infrastructure or development is required. The SA should include an objective to minimise the impact on landscape character.
EU Sustainable Development Strategy 2001 (revised 2006)	The strategy set overall objectives for seven key policy challenges: Climate Change and clean energy Sustainable transport Sustainable consumption and production Conservation and management of natural resources Public health Social inclusion, demography and migration Global poverty and sustainable development challenges The strategy outlines the need for economic growth to support social progress and respect the environment to achieve sustainable development. It aims to promote	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 objectives set out in the strategy. The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.

	a more integrated approach to policy making to reduce unsustainable consumption and production patterns.	
European Biodiversity Strategy to 2030	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.	The Local Plan should seek to ensure that it effectively protects and enhances biodiversity across the district, taking into account the ecosystem services biodiversity provides and contribution to community wellbeing and the local economy. The Local Plan offers opportunities to achieve biodiversity gains through protection of local wildlife areas and provision of new green infrastructure. In addition, the strategy may limit certain Local Plan policies if they are shown to be likely to have a significant adverse effect on biodiversity or ecosystem services. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance biodiversity.
EC Birds Directive – Council Directive 2009/147/EEC on the conservation of wild birds	The Directive provides for protection of all naturally occurring wild bird species and their habitats, with particular protection of rare species. It designates Special Protection Areas (SPAs) to protect important bird species and populations and their supporting habitats.	The Local Plan objectives should avoid any significant adverse effect on recognised important habitats for birds. The Directive may restrict certain aspects of the Local Plan if they are shown to be likely to have a significant effect on a SPA. The Local Plan should include a Habitat Regulations Assessment to assess the potential for a significant impact on any SPA sites.

EC Habitat's Directive – Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	The principal aim is to promote the conservation of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to restore natural habitats and species of European importance to favourable conservation status. The Directive establishes the creation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in order to provide a coherent ecological network of protected sites. It also encourages protection and management of flora and fauna and supporting landscapes through planning and development policies.	The Local Plan should take account of the Directive and avoid any significant adverse effect on designated sites and qualifying features, and any supporting habitats and landscape features. The Directive may restrict certain Local Plan policies if they are shown to be likely to have a significant effect on a SAC or important supporting habitats or landscape features. The SA should include an objective that seeks to protect biodiversity and the natural environment and important landscape features.
EU Water Framework Directive -Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy	The Directive establishes the framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater to restore to good status. The Directive aims to prevent pollution, promote sustainable water use, protect aquatic ecology and improve the status of aquatic ecosystems, and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts. It also places requirements on all relevant authorities to ensure their actions do not contravene the objectives of the Directive	The Directive will guide the Local Plan and provide important guidance in ensuring that the Plan provides robust protection of the water environment and seeks to minimise flood risk. Local Plan policies will be strengthened if they actively contribute to meeting the WFD objectives. The SA should include an appraisal objective that contributes to the WFD objectives through the protection and enhancement of water quality and water resources.
SEA Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	The Directive provides for the high level of protection for the environment and promotes sustainable development by requiring that the formulation of plans and programmes are informed by an Environmental Impact Assessment.	The Local Plan is being developed in conjunction with a SA that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive. The SA findings will be used to inform the choice of draft and final plan policies.
The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention control)	Establishes rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution from industrial activities by limiting emissions. It is designed	The Local Plan should develop policies that incorporate the requirements of this Directive to reduce emissions. The SA should include

	to reduce emissions to air, water and land and minimise waste.	an appraisal objective to reduce emissions and pollution.
Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	Aims to reduce waste by defining waste management and distinguishes between waste and by-products. Defines the waste hierarchy and requires that waste is managed without endangering human health and the environment and therefore requires relevant authorities to manage waste accordingly.	The Local Plan should avoid any significant increase on waste generation from development within the District. The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste production and also promote the waste hierarchy.
EU Landfill Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	Aims to prevent or reduce the negative effects of landfilling of waste on the environment as well as any resultant risk to human health. It sets the technical requirements for waste and landfills. Development and management policies for landfill sites should be informed by the objectives of this Directive.	The Local Plan should develop policies that take account of the requirements of the Directive, such as reducing the amount of waste to landfill and also ensuring landfills have low risk to human health and the environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste to landfill.
Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	Protect human health from adverse effects of	The Local Plan should ensure the provision of safe drinking water. Policies should be developed to ensure adequate monitoring programmes must be carried out to ensure the protection of human health. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect water quality.
Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management	Aims to avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient noise pollution on human health and the environment.	The Local Plan should take into account the Directive to ensure that harmful effects are minimised in line with the objectives. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.
Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air Directive 2008.	Objectives are to combat emissions of pollutants at source and to identify and implement the most effective emission reduction measures. Emissions of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or	The Local Plan should take into account the Directive to ensure that harmful effects are minimised in line with the objectives. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.

	reduced and appropriate objectives set for ambient air quality taking into account relevant World Health Organisation standards, guidelines and programmes.	
Packing and Packing Waste Directive 94/62/EC on packing and packing waste		The Local Plan should take account of how packing and packing waste is managed in the District.
EU Nitrates Directive 1991	The Directive aims to protect water quality by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices	The Local Plan should include objectives to reduce water pollution caused by nitrates, particularly from agriculture. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce water pollution and runoff from agricultural areas
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban wastewater treatment	The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban wastewater discharges. For this purpose, it concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater and the treatment and discharge of wastewater from certain industrial sectors	Local Plan policies will need to respond to the aims of the Directive, especially with regards to built development and water treatment plants. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce water pollution
EU Eighth Environmental Action Programme 2021 2030	The Environmental Action Programme (EAP) provides a framework for the EU's overall environmental policy development and guide the policy-making by identifying priorities and setting out a long-term vision and goals. The 8th EAP has six thematic priority objectives in areas of: Climate neutrality Adaptation and resilience to climate change and other environmental risks Circular economy and regenerative growth decoupling economy from resource use and environmental degradation Zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment Protecting and	The Local Plan should develop policies that take account of the Programme to protect the environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance the environment.

	restoring biodiversity, and enhancing natural capital Environmental sustainability and reduction of the environmental pressures from production and consumption	
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1992)	The aim of the Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be archeologically investigated on land and underwater	Local Plan policies should be developed in accordance with this convention and ensure no damage to archaeological finds. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect cultural heritage.
EU Floods Directive - 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	Establishes a framework to reduce and manage the risk of flooding and associated impacts on the environment, human health, heritage and economy. Provides strategic direction to reduce impacts of flooding and promote enhanced flood risk management.	The Local Plan should ensure it does not include policies that increase flood risk within the District and include policies that decrease the risk of flooding. The SA should include an appraisal objective to decrease flood risk.
EU Groundwater Directive – 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration	Establishes a regime that sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater. Implemented in the UK through the Environmental Permitting Regulations (2010).	The Local Plan would need to consider potential impacts on groundwater and may be restricted if the policies contribute to an adverse impact. Local Plan policies should be developed to ensure no harm to groundwater quality. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect water resources and groundwater.
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	Aims to advance and strengthen sustainable development at the local, national, regional and local levels. It commits to building a humane, equitable and caring global society and aware of the need for human dignity for all.	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 objectives set out in the declaration. The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.
Aarhus Convention (1998)	Aims are to establish a number of rights for the public with regard to the environment.	The Local Plan should provide for the right of everyone to receive environmental information, the right to participate early on in

		environmental decision making, and the right to challenge in court of law public decisions that have been made in contravention to the above. The SA should ensure that it will be publicly available, along with the Local Plan, and ensure that the public are involved in the decision-making process.
National		
National Planning Policy Framework 2024	The NPPF, most recently updated in December 2024, sets the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. This framework must be considered when preparing the development plan alongside international obligations and statutory requirements.	The SA and Local Plan considers the planning policies within the NPPF and takes these into account when identifying a preferred option.
Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)	Provides guidance for the protection and enhancement of important habitats and species. Requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principle importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.	The Local Plan should avoid any adverse impacts on important habitats and species and should seek to enhance them. The act may restrict certain policies within the Local Plan if they are shown to negatively impact on habitats and species listed in the act. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance important habitats and species.
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) (1981)	The Act is the principle mechanism for legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. It deals with the protection of birds, other animals and plants. The Act provides for the notification of SSSI and their protection and management. Any potential impacts of the Plan, including on SSSIs, will need to be considered through the SA.	The Local Plan should avoid any adverse impacts on SSSI's and should seek to enhance them. The act may restrict certain policies within the Local Plan if they are shown to negatively impact on SSSI's. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance designated sites.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)	Safeguards public access by foot to specified lands. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) gives public rights of access to land mapped as 'open country' (mountain, moor, heath and down) or registered common land. These areas are known as 'open access land'.	The Local Plan must ensure that potential development does not impeded on rights of way and include policies to enhance people's experience and access to rights of way. The SA should include an appraisal objective to preserve and encourage access to open space.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Under this legislation Scheduled Monuments are protected based on their archaeological or historical interest.	The SA should consider how the Local Plan could negatively impact Scheduled Monuments and seek to mitigate or minimise these impacts.
Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006	These Regulations, which apply to England only, also set out provisions relating to the identification and remediation of contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. DEFRA produced contaminated land statutory guidance in 2012 to explain how local authorities should implement the regime on contaminated land.	The SA should consider how the Local Plan has included measures relating to the identification of contamination risks and guard against land contamination.
Environmental Protection Act 1990	The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 90) contains the key provisions in relation to the management of controlled waste. Part II of the EPA 90 deals specifically with the deposit of waste to land and associated offences.	The Local Plan should consider how developments remediate and mitigate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated land, where appropriate. The SA Framework should contain an objective in relation to waste minimisation.
Environmental Act 2001	The Environment Act has been implemented with the intention of protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations. The Act brings many of the objectives in the 25-year environment plan into UK law, setting legal targets to halt species declines and implementing laws to ensure water	The SA Framework and Local Plan should align with the UK's environmental objectives in the preparation and assessment of the Plan to help safeguard the area and resources for future generations.

	companies deliver reductions in the frequency of sewerage discharges.	
Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA)	This Act was produced to incentivise the build of housing sites through a series of measures which include support for councils who fail to meet the necessary commitments.	To comply with UK legislation, the Local Plan should consider the implications of this Act on house-building principals. The SA should ensure this is approached with sustainability principles at the forefront.
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2024	This policy sets out the government's planning policy in relation to Traveller Sites, in conjunction with the NPPF.	The Local Plan and SA consider the implications of the policy throughout the Plan making process.
UK Infrastructure: A 10 Year Strategy 2025	A strategy setting out how the government's long term plan for economic, housing and social infrastructure to drive growth.	The Local Plan and SA considers the implications of the policy throughout the Plan making process.
UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2030	This strategy draws upon the commitments made to achieving all 23 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets.	The Local Plan and SA considers the implications of the strategy including the relevant targets throughout the Plan making process.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)	The 25 Year Environment Plan sets out planned government action to deliver nature recovery. This covers several areas including climate change mitigation and adaptation, on which it outlines plans to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, incorporate climate change in all policy, programme, and investment decisions and implement an effective National Adaptation Programme. The Plan should help achieve targets set out in the plan including reducing risk harm environmental hazards and mitigating and adapting to climate change. The plan impacts upon clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhancing beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural.	Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change and policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts. New development should be planned for in a way that avoids increased vulnerability to climate change. The Local Plan should help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; avoid adverse impacts, and enhance where possible, biodiversity, air quality, landscape, and heritage; and not result in increased flooding of the district.

The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (First Revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan)	The first revision of the Environmental Improvement Plan builds on the 25-years plan's vision with a new plan setting out how the government will work with landowners, communities, and businesses to deliver each of the goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress.	As well as the above, the SA should consider how the Local Plan's environmental outcomes achieve the interim targets set out in the revised plan.
Environmental Improvement Plan 2025	The Government's 5-year statutory roadmap to halt biodiversity decline, tackle climate change, and improve public health. It sets legally binding targets to restore nature and integrate environmental goals with economic growth and food security	The SA should consider how the Local Plan's environmental outcomes achieve the interim targets set out in the revised plan.
Environment Act 2021	The Environment Act has been implemented with the intention of protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations. The Act brings many of the objectives in the 25-year environment plan into UK law, setting legal targets to halt species declines and implementing laws to ensure water companies deliver reductions in the frequency of sewerage discharges.	The SA Framework and Local Plan will align with the UK's environmental objectives in the preparation and assessment of the Plan to help safeguard the area and resources for future generations.
Planning for the climate challenge? Understanding the performance of English local plans (2016)	Town and Country Planning Guidance for how to include climate change related issues in local planning policy.	The guidance will be used to inform the climate change objective of the SA.
Third National Adaption Programme (NAP3) (2023)	The National Adaptation Programme sets actions that government and others will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change in the UK. The NAP3 sets out the key actions for 2023 to 2028. This report forms part of the 5-yearly cycle of requirements laid down in the Climate Change Act 2008. The NAP3 includes climate risks and actions for avoiding or mitigating these in the	Many of the actions in NAP3 can help to improve standards of living, such as by upgrading buildings and infrastructure. The SA will need to consider how the Local Plan has included measures to adapt to future climate change risks.

	infrastructure; natural environment; health, communities and built environment; business and industry; and international sectors.	
A Well – Adapted UK The Fourth Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk (2026)	As required by the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK government has undertaken the fourth five- year assessment of the risks of climate change on the UK. This is based on the Independent Assessment of UK Climate Change Committee (CCC), commissioned by the UK government and devolved administrations. The risk assessment considers 61 UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy and prioritises the following eight risk areas for action in the next two years.	The SA will need to consider how the Local Plan has included measures to adapt.
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	Set out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management through positive planning.	The Local Plan should include policies to consider waste generation and management in the district, including minimising waste. The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste.
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for public health in England (2010)	Housing plays an important role in social mobility, and housing policies should aim to achieve this.	Housing policies and development will be an integral part of the Local Plan. The Local Plan should include policies that provide for housing that meets the needs of everyone in the District. The SA should include an objective that increases the amount of suitable housing available in the district.
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for public health in England (2010)	Sets out the Government's strategy for improving public health. Aims to reform the public health system by giving more powers to local authorities. It aims to protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and	Policies in the Local Plan should reflect the objectives in the strategy and aim to improve the health of the district's residents. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve health.

	more fulfilling lives. It also aims to improve the health of the poorest, fastest.	
Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England	Sets out the Government's approach to modernise and secure the NHS by shifting focus from hospitals to communities, from treating illness to prevention and establishing a unified patient system	Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the objectives and aims of the strategy. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve health.
Community Energy Strategy (2014)	Sets out plans to promote and facilitate the planning and development of decentralised community energy initiatives in four main types of energy activity.	The Local Plan should ensure that policies support community low carbon and renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)	Strategy to help tackle climate change by reducing the UK's emissions of carbon dioxide through increasing energy production from renewable energy sources.	The Local Plan should include policies to increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources. The SA should include an objective that includes increasing the amount of renewable energy generation.
Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity	The government's action plan set out a transition towards clean, low carbon electricity in Great Britain. This included plans to expand energy infrastructure and transmission networks.	The Local Plan should include policies that increase the use of low carbon power. The SA should include an appraisal objective to promote the adaptation and mitigation to climate change effects.
Air Quality (Amendment of Domestic Regulations) (EU Exit) Regulations, 2019	The aim of this regulation is to designate zones in which ambient air will be protected by limiting the concentrations of pollutants within them. Defra's air quality strategy for England provides a framework for local authorities to make best use of their powers and make air quality improvements for their communities.	The Local Plan should set out policies to improve air quality within the district and reduce the emissions of pollutants. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.
Clean Air Strategy (2019)	The Clean Air Strategy provides a way in which the UK will tackle all sources of air pollution with the main aims of making UK air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy.	The SA should consider the impact the Local Plan may have on air quality. Policies should ensure that development contributes to and complies with relevant limit values for pollutants.

Housing Act 2004	Protects the most vulnerable in society by creating a fairer housing market. Helps to achieve the Government's aim of providing decent homes.	The Local Plan should include policies that help to create a fairer and better housing market. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve access to good quality and affordable housing.
Localism Act 2011	The aim of the act is to facilitate the devolution of decision making powers from central government control to individuals and communities.	The Local Plan should include policies that enable local people, charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to work with the Local Authority and ensure that planning policy decisions take full account of the views that are expressed.
The Flood and Water Management Act 2010	Aims to make improvements to both flood risk management and the way water resources are managed.	The Local Plan should include clear roles, responsibilities and standards for the creation of sustainable drainage. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve flood risk management and protect water resources.
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England 2020	The strategy sets out a vision of a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change -today, tomorrow and to the year 2100.	The SA and Local Plan should consider the policies contained within the strategy for management of flood risk.
National Framework for Water Resources 2025: water for growth nature and a resilient future.	The framework provides a strategic direction to long term plan to ensure resilient water supplies across England. The aim of the framework is to ensure long term water resources planning to enable growth, strengthen multi – sector planning and resilience, planning to enable sustainable abstraction across catchments and supporting an integrated approach to water management.	The Local Plan should include policies that encourage sustainable delivery of secure water supplies and protect the water environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to improve the management of water and protection of the water environment.
Surface water management action plan (2018) (Updated 2021)	This surface water management action plan sets out the steps the government is taking, with the Environment Agency and others, to manage the risk of surface water flooding. It	The SA and Local Plan should consider actions related to surface water management; particularly where new development is proposed.

	covers actions to both improve our understanding of the risks and strengthen delivery. These include Improving risk assessment and communication. Making sure infrastructure is resilient. Clarifying responsibilities for surface water management. Joining up planning for surface water management. Building local authority capacity	
Northern Gateway Development Zone Prospectus (Constellation Partnership)	The Northern Gateway Development Zone (NGDZ) is a strategy which has been created by partnership between two Local Enterprise Partnerships and seven Local Authorities. The NGDZ aims to capitalise and guide the investment brought by High Speed 2.	The SA and Local Plan should consider actions that support the aims of the strategy.
Midlands Connect Strategy March 2017	Produced by The Midlands Connect Partnership, the strategy focuses on the connectivity of the Midlands region.	The Local Plan should consider policies that support the focus of the Strategy.
Severn Trent Water Resource Management Plan 2024	All water companies in England and Wales need to publish their plans every five years under the Water Industry Act 1991. This is Severn Trent's fifth WRMP, following on from the previous version published in 2019. It is a plan that explains their proposals for making sure that enough water is available to supply to customers in an affordable and sustainable way over the next 25 years.	The Local Plan should include policies that aim to reduce demand for water and protect sustainable sources of drinking water supply from pollution risks. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to sustainable water resource management.
Joint Waste Local Plan for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 2010 - 2026	The Plan relates to how waste will be managed after it has been collected from homes, offices, factories, farms or construction sites.	The SA and Local Plan should consider actions related to surface waste management; particularly where new development is proposed.
Local Plans, Policies and Programmes		
Health and well-being Strategy for Cannock 2013 2018	The strategy is a 5-year plan for Staffordshire to unite several partners to make best use of the social and financial resources available to	The Local Plan should contain policies that look to improve local employment, the local economy, safety, health of the community,

	improve the health and wellbeing of people who live here.	and helping those in the district most in need. The SA should include objectives that look to improve the economy, employment, community safety and community health.
Staffordshire Mental Health Strategy	This document outlines mental health proposals, both in terms of priority outcomes and actions to deliver.	The Local Plan should contain policies that look to improve the mental health of the community and helping those in the district most in need. The SA should include objectives that look to improve the economy, employment, community safety and community health.
Cannock Chase District Council: Part 1 Open Space Assessment 2022 – 2040 November 2023	This document provides an assessment of all formal sport and leisure facilities across the district to assist in planning for the future. This includes both playing pitch and indoor and built facilities.	The Local Plan should consider the Strategy and aim to adhere to its recommendations. The SA should include objectives that aim to meet current and future needs for playing pitches across the district.
Cannock Chase District Council Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	This document seeks to work with partner agencies to identify ways in which to reduce and stop homelessness and rough sleeping, and where this is not possible ensure that suitable housing and support is available.	The Local Plan should contain policies that seek to provide a range of housing types and solutions to improve the availability of housing. The SA should include objectives that look to improve the housing options.
Stafford Borough Council and Cannock Chase Council: Climate Change Strategy	This joint strategy aims to create a green, healthy and resilient area where people and nature can thrive, by limiting the impacts of Climate Change and meeting our Climate Change and green recovery commitments.	The Local Plan and SA should consider the actions related to the strategy objectives, implementation framework and the action plan and adhere to relevant recommendations.
Economic Prosperity Strategy 2022	The document provides a vision and objectives to promote economic growth within the district.	The Local Plan should include policies that improve the local economy by encouraging inward investment. The SA should include objectives in relation to improving and strengthening the local economy.
Biodiversity Strategy 2026 - 2030	The strategy sets out four key areas in which action will be taken, acknowledging the impact that climate change will have. The strategy lists actions that will be taken.	The Local Plan should include policies that look to support objectives relating to climate change, biodiversity and nature restoration. The SA should include objectives that seeks

		to protect biodiversity and the natural environment and important landscape features.
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Permission to Spend - Locality Improvement Framework Funding

Committee:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	16 July 2026
Report of:	Head of Wellbeing
Portfolio:	Community Safety and Wellbeing

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To raise awareness of the Locality Improvement Framework and its approach to improving health and wellbeing at a local level. To set out the role of Cannock Chase District Council within this partnership initiative and request permission to spend the allocated funding.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet supports this initiative to reduce health inequalities within the district by giving permission to spend the grant allocation of £74,640 in 2026, £100,000 in 2027 and £100,000 in 2028.
- 2.2 The Council supports the wider project, including promoting community micro grants which Support Staffordshire will be making available to community organisations to deliver food related projects with the aim of reducing health inequalities.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.3 Health inequalities in Cannock Chase are high, this funding from the Integrated Care Board aims to reduce inequalities, promote good health and benefit residents in some of the more deprived areas of the district.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Cannock Chase District Council has been awarded funding from the Integrated Care Board to deliver 'Focus on Food – Cannock Chase' to tackle health inequalities linked to poor diet in the most deprived areas of the district. The funding is for 3 calendar years from 2026. Part of this funding is to be passported to Support Staffordshire to administer a grant funding scheme for community organisations to deliver initiatives with the same objective.
- 3.2 Cannock Chase District has high levels of health inequalities. Life expectancy for both men and women is the lowest in the County and below the national average (2022-2024). Life expectancy across the district is unequal, with a gap of around 8 years between those living in the most and least deprived areas of Cannock Chase¹. Evidence based projects to improve the health of residents of the district are important, hence funding being made available by the ICB.

¹ OHID, based on Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Office for National Statistics data. Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026].

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This initiative contributes to Corporate Priority 2, Health and Wellbeing and Corporate Priority 3, The Community.

5 Report Detail

Context

- 5.1 In January 2025, The Integrated Care Board for Staffordshire and Stoke-on Trent (ICB) approved funding to reduce health inequalities and prevent ill health, the programme was called the Locality Improvement Framework (LIF). £1.7m was allocated per year for 3 years, with Cannock Chase earmarked to receive £100,000 a year in 2026, 2027 and 2028 conditional on an approved project.
- 5.2 The ICB, in partnership with Support Staffordshire brought partners together within the district to understand the data in relation to health inequalities and to develop potential interventions. Partners included Cannock Chase District Council, GPs and Primary Care Networks, Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust, Support Staffordshire and Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services, Staffordshire County Council and Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL).
- 5.3 The evidence and insight from the partnership identified food as a contributing factor to many of the health inequalities in the district. The more deprived wards in the district have higher levels of adult hypertension, obesity (in children and adults), diabetes, coronary heart disease, strokes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and dental cavities. The prevalence of overweight 10–11-year-olds (year 6) in Cannock Chase is higher than the national average and significantly increases between reception and year 6. In recent years nationally the prevalence of overweight children of this age has decreased, but in Cannock Chase it has increased.
- 5.4 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) was used to target the project, with the focus being on locations in the top 10% of most deprived areas in England and top 20%. The group also looked at areas with high levels of free school meals and areas of high levels of child obesity.

The Project

- 5.5 The 'Focus on Food – Cannock Chase' initiative aims to tackle health inequalities linked to poor diet and nutrition in the most deprived areas of the district. It addresses barriers such as affordability, lack of skills, and environmental factors that prevent families from adopting healthier eating habits and breaking cyclical behaviours within the household, by enabling children to make positive associations with healthy food choices, to take into adulthood, and includes everything from broadening palettes, cooking and growing skills.
- 5.6 It is broken up into 5 delivery strands.

A) Feeding Our Future – Targeted

Children aged 4-9 years old undertake 12 sessions which promote consuming a healthier diet and understanding how poor diets impact on mental and physical health, this looks at confidence to try new foods, kitchen skills and food literacy.

Targeted work with families addressing cost of living challenges and budgets, low literacy, existing medical conditions, eating disorders, poor relationships with food including lack of confidence and time to prepare meals.

All participants work alongside specialists in the subject matter.

B) Family Food & Action - Targeted

Community-led social impact projects designed by the participants of the courses to promote healthy eating in the wider community.

C) Digital Integration - Districtwide

The resources and activities will be uploaded to the Cannock Chase Can app to extend reach and sustainability, to support wider population health outcomes. These will be tested in the targeted areas before being widely shared.

D) Food Network

Support Staffordshire will be setting up and supporting a food network bringing together organisations and groups who help distribute food to local residents.

E) Micro Grants

Support Staffordshire will administer a pot of grant funding each year for voluntary and community organisations to lead projects that will support the promotion of healthy food and food literacy and build local capacity to deliver.

- 5.7 Data has informed Year 1 targeted work, which will engage children living on the Springfields Estate in Rugeley, through Forest Hills Primary School. The most up to date data will inform years 2 and 3, but at present the data is suggesting similar interventions in Cannock North and Cannock South.

Delivery Infrastructure

- 5.8 The partnership had to identify a 'Trusted Delivery Partner' that could submit the application to the ICB on behalf of the LIF partnership, host the LIF funds and act as project lead for reporting and evaluation. The Community Wellbeing Team at Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles were best placed to carry out this role given the resource available within their team and their strong track record of community engagement and project delivery, in particular to reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles.
- 5.9 On 01 April 2026, the Community Wellbeing Team transferred from IHL (the outgoing leisure operator) to Cannock Chase District Council. The Council will therefore take over as Trusted Delivery Partner. The project started on 01 January 2026, therefore the first quarters funding was drawn down and spent by IHL, this permission to spend therefore reflects the funding for the remainder of this calendar year and the following two years.
- 5.10 Support Staffordshire will be responsible for promoting, awarding, administering and monitoring the community micro-grants and reporting the achievements to Cannock Chase District Council as the Trusted Delivery Partner and reporting lead. £30,000 of the grant will be passported to Support Staffordshire for this purpose and a further £3,000 for administration of this scheme.

Support Staffordshire will also be responsible for setting up the County Food Network, to promote initiatives such as these and to bring together organisations and groups who distribute food locally (£3,000 of the grant will fund this).

- 5.11 The Council are working closely with Staffordshire University to develop the evaluation framework for the project to measure the impact of the interventions.

6. Implications

6.1 Financial

As set out in the report the Council will receive a grant of £274,640.00 to deliver the project outcomes, there is no requirement for additional council funding. The project will be delivered by the in house wellbeing team. Monies to be passported to Support Staffordshire (referred to in paragraph 5.10) will be subject to a grant agreement.

The Council will need to sign up to a grant agreement with the requirement to have the spend audited annually.

6.2 Legal

The agreement between the ICB and the Council (the 'Agreement') sets out the collaborative working and joint aims of the parties, together with governance controls and is pursuant to s.256 and s.257 of the NHS Act 2006 (the 'Act'). Those sections of the Act allow for the NHS to deploy funds to Local Authorities, voluntary organisations and other specified bodies where those parties can provide health and wellbeing benefits and services which the NHS either does not offer or would come at a greater cost if it were to do so.

The funds being passported by the Council to Support Staffordshire, a voluntary community organisation, will be subject to a grant agreement which will mirror the relevant parts of the Agreement and in particular, but not limited to, cl.4 'Monitoring and Review' and cl.5 'Audit Requirements' (annual audit). This will be in addition to the Council's standard terms and conditions and mandatory policies.

Subsidy Control has been considered due to the funding flowing from Public Bodies and is not relevant in this case.

6.3 Human Resources

Resources are already allocated and budgeted to deliver this work. No additional human resource implications are anticipated.

6.4 Risk Management

Each delivery area has its own risk assessment.

A fully qualified and experienced specialist has been appointed to work alongside children and families and to:

- o provide ongoing advisory support throughout the project,
- o managing the risks associated with participants trying new foods for the first time

- o manage mobile kitchen environments and participatory activities in line with food hygiene regulations, including safe food storage and the controlled use of higher-risk foods such as chicken.

Safeguarding reporting mechanisms in place. Fire prevention and emergency evacuation procedures are site specific and led by the host organisation.

6.5 Equalities and Diversity

The project champions and advocates all aspects of inclusion and demonstrates equality and diversity throughout ensuring activities are fully accessible. An equalities impact assessment has been carried out.

6.6 Health

The purpose of the initiative is to improve health and tackle health inequalities. It also fully embraces the need to provide accessible opportunities for those with health conditions.

6.7 Climate Change

The initiative considers climate change in all activities from shopping local and reducing food waste, to smart menu planning and integrating growing food at home and in host settings. It applies the new food waste disposal practices. The activities take place in the heart of the community harnessing active travel.

7 Appendices

None.

8 Previous Consideration

None.

9 Background Papers

None.

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Ward Interest:	All
Report Track:	Cabinet: 16/07/26
Key Decision:	No

Cannock Chase Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-28

Committee:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	16 July 2026
Report of:	Head of Wellbeing
Portfolio:	Community Safety and Wellbeing

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the draft **Cannock Chase Community Wellbeing Strategy (2026–2028)** for consideration, setting out the Council's vision, values, strategic aims, governance arrangements and delivery framework for improving community wellbeing in our District. The strategy outlines how the Council will work with the Chase Community Partnership to encourage, support and enable our communities to live healthy, safe, fulfilling and resilient lives.

2 Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approves and adopts the Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2028 and endorses the use of the Community Wellbeing Implementation Plan as a living document to coordinate actions across the three delivery workstreams (People, Partnerships, Places).
- 2.2 Approves and provides delegated authority to the Head of Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, to review, extend and make any further changes, amendments, or updates to the Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2028, as appropriate.
- 2.3 Agrees to the proposed performance and review arrangements; performance will be demonstrated against the implementation plans and reported to the Chase Community Partnership.
- 2.4 Notes that there will be a presentation to Health, Wellbeing and The Community Scrutiny Committee annually on key achievements by the Head of Wellbeing, in consultation with the portfolio holder.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.5 The strategy determines a clear, evidence led vision and outlines the strategic outcomes we are seeking to achieve for our District - *“Healthy, active and fulfilled communities”* and *“Safe, resilient and connected communities”*. It sets out how the Council will lead, advocate, facilitate and collaborate with partners, to achieve the aims and objectives of the strategy for the benefit of our communities.
- 2.6 The environment in which we operate is facing a period of significant change with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) expected in 2028, so while the strategy is proposed initially for the period 2026/28, there is scope to extend the duration if required (see 2.2 above).

- 2.7 The implementation plan operationalises the strategy and focuses on collaboration with our partners to reduce duplication, create efficiency and achieve shared objectives. It is flexible, to enable continuous refinement for improvements.
- 2.8 Regular monitoring and review will ensure the strategy and the accompanying implementation plan remain responsive to evolving local needs and further system changes.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The strategy emphasises the social, economic, and environmental drivers of wellbeing and the need to embed prevention, early intervention, and partnership working across Council functions.
- 3.2 The strategy formally brings together statutory community safety and health & wellbeing functions under a single framework, recognising interdependencies and committing to shared outcomes. It also seeks to embed community safety, health and wellbeing across all Council functions.
- 3.3 The strategy positions the Council to align and collaborate through a number of anticipated wider system changes, including the proposed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) toward establishing new single tier unitary councils by March 2028; changes to policing and fire governance from 2028 and ongoing Integrated Care System (ICS) reorganisation under the new proposed Integrated Care Board (ICB) cluster arrangements.
- 3.4 Delivery of the strategy will be led by the Council's Wellbeing Service through the Chase Community Partnership, with strategic oversight by the Chase Community Partnership Board (CCPB) and operational coordination via working groups, to ensure multi-agency leadership and accountability.
- 3.5 The Council plays a number of key roles in delivery of the strategy. It will lead, advocate, facilitate and collaborate, drawing on a wide span of its services from across the organisation to contribute to achieving the strategic outcomes, including community development, leisure and parks, community safety/CCTV, housing & homelessness, environmental health, licensing, planning, economic development, waste & recycling.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report supports the following Council's Corporate Priorities:
 - **Priority 2: Health and Wellbeing** - by helping to ensure the most vulnerable people in our district are safeguarded.
 - **Priority 3: The Community** - by assisting in ensuring our neighbourhoods are safe.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 Since the introduction of shared services in 2023, the Head of Wellbeing has led work to integrate health and wellbeing into the existing Community Safety Partnership, broadening its focus to reflect the wider determinants of wellbeing. Working with a wide range of partners, this has supported the development of shared priorities and a more coordinated, outcomes focused approach.
- 5.2 The Community Wellbeing Strategy is a direct product of this collaborative work and provides a shared framework to align partnership activity, support joint ownership, and guide collective action to improve wellbeing through existing governance arrangements.
- 5.3 Development of the strategy was tasked to the Head of Wellbeing and work began to collate the evidence and local data required to support its development, with a view to working up a proposal with the support of the Chase Community Partnership stakeholders. The proposed strategy creates a platform to bring together the already successful and established approaches from the Chase Community Partnership and the work of Cannock Chase Can, setting out an agreed vision and framework for delivery.
- 5.4 Chase Community Partnership is the mechanism for delivery of the statutory partnership function in Cannock Chase and is led and co-ordinated by the Council. It brings together representatives from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors and provides a shared purpose through co-operative and co-ordinated joint working, designed to improve social, economic and environmental wellbeing in the District. This activity contributes to reducing crime and disorder and in turn contributes to working to improve wellbeing outcomes and creating healthier communities.
- 5.5 Cannock Chase Can is an innovative Council led health and wellbeing initiative, aimed at tackling health inequalities by empowering communities and focusing on providing infrastructure and resources. There are also a host of other Council services and initiatives contributing to the wellbeing agenda, such as leisure services, community development, housing options, environmental health and planning.
- 5.6 The proposed strategy aims to bring together the Council's statutory community safety and health and wellbeing functions, giving greater recognition to the relationship between the two in addressing the wider determinants of health for our population. It also seeks to incorporate the broader responsibilities and work of the Council, so that these are encouraged and able to actively contribute to the community wellbeing agenda with the work of our partners, as part of the Chase Community Partnership.
- 5.7 Officers have worked collaboratively with partners to develop the proposed Community Wellbeing Strategy, which aims to enhance wellbeing and community safety by fostering healthy, active, safe, and connected communities, through evidence based, prevention focused and partnership driven approaches.
- 5.8 The development of the accompanying implementation plan and further work with the Partnership will be undertaken using current resources in the Wellbeing Service.

5.9 The framework for the strategy is outlined below:

Vision - What are we aspiring to achieve?		
<i>Together we create a healthy, safe, and connected Cannock Chase District where every person has the opportunity to live well and thrive.</i>		
Outcomes - our ultimate long term objectives.....		
Healthy, active and fulfilled communities <i>We will support our communities to have confidence in their futures and provide opportunities to enable them to make healthy and active lifestyle choices, with access to the services and facilities they need.</i>	Safe, resilient and connected communities <i>We will encourage our communities to feel safe, strong, valued and included and offer access to timely information and appropriate support, to help them thrive and have pride in their localities.</i>	
Principles - our values/approach and guidelines for what we do.....		
Evidence based approach, acknowledging and understanding the root causes and risk factors to drive decision making	Prioritising prevention, early intervention, improvement and innovation	Multi-agency systemic approach, supported by strong governance and delivery arrangements for the Partnership
Building resilience and capacity with our communities in shaping and responding to local needs	Robust performance management framework and promotion of continuous development across the Partnership	Ensuring synergy with other strategies and services, to avoid duplication and maximise impact
Priority Workstreams - key areas of focus for us.....		
People	Partnerships	Places
Objectives - what we intend to achieve.....		
Embed wellbeing across all Council functions and strengthen cross sector partnership working	Prioritising community engagement, empowerment and development	Ensure timely and fair access to accurate and appropriate information and support
Encouraging a strength based approach and creating resilience	Maximising use of local assets and facilitating new opportunities	Providing optimal environments for healthier and safer living
Measuring our impact - what will be different.....		
Embed a culture of awareness, learning and improvement with our workforce and partners	Continue to seek views of our communities to evaluate our impact and effectiveness	Development of Community Wellbeing Implementation Plan to outline detail and timescales for delivery
Accessibility of available information and support e.g. engagement behaviours	Development of robust monitoring, evaluation and key performance indicators - qualitative and quantitative	Accountable to our Chase Community Partnership - stakeholders are able to scrutinise progress made
Increased community participation in engagement and feedback activities.	Improved perceptions of community safety and reduced incidents of crime.	Increased healthy life expectancy. Improved health outcomes and reduced health inequalities.

- 5.10 To support achieving the ambitions of this strategy there will be a detailed implementation (delivery) plan setting out the practical actions we will take as a partnership, to bring it to life, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for deliverables. It is divided into three interdependent workstreams for delivery:

People

Examples of our activities within this workstream may include:

- Ensuring range of **accessible engagement opportunities** are available to gain meaningful participation from our residents
- Fostering a sense of belonging and pride in our communities – **community pride and wellbeing events**, gardening competitions
- Encouraging **intergenerational connections and social cohesion** to ensure that all ages are supported and valued
- Strengthening local leadership by building community capacity and **encouraging volunteering and participation**
- Developing range of **prevention and early intervention activities** to promote healthy lifestyles e.g. weight management, diabetes, reducing smoking, alcohol consumption and substance use such as **classes, outdoor activities, grown and eat**
- Further **developing and enhancing the Cannock Chase Can branding and resource** into a trusted, district-level information, advice and guidance directory and regularly review its impact to ensure it reaches the right people at the right time
- Creating a **Communication Plan and campaigns calendar** to promote key community safety and wellbeing messaging to the community.

Partnerships

Examples of our activities within this workstream may include:

- Ensuring that **effective partnerships** are in place and maintained to support community safety and the wellbeing of our residents
- **Engaging and influencing commissioning and delivery of local services** that support community safety initiatives and wellbeing of our residents e.g. CCTV, ASB responses, youth violence
- **Strengthening partnerships** with **VCSE** local organisations, community groups, Town and Parish Councils and our residents to **generate new ideas and opportunities**
- Explore opportunities for the **partnership workforce** to implement further joint working, collaboration and service integration
- Using the **collective partnership resources** most appropriately and working to identify and reduce duplication.

Places

Examples of our activities within this workstream may include:

- Being **aspirational** in the way we **improve places** e.g. empty homes, planning, licensing, food hygiene inspections, waste collection, trading standards, patrols
- **Enable the community to deliver Pride in Place** initiatives, empowering them to lead and shape visible improvements in their neighbourhoods
- **Promoting active lifestyles** and **access to nature and open spaces**, recognising the role of the local environment in improving wellbeing
- **Responding to areas of concern** in local community e.g. problematic disused buildings and other unloved areas, which if ignored may decline further or create more serious issues
- Developing more **accessible and safer routes** for walking, cycling and other outdoor recreation
- Promoting the provision of **suitable accommodation**, services, information and advice to prevent and reduce homelessness.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

The strategy does not have any direct financial implications for the Council. The implementation of the strategy will primarily utilise existing Council and partner capacity, while seeking external grants and co-funding where appropriate through the implementation plan.

If any additional funding is required in the future this will be the subject of a separate report.

6.2 Legal

The Council has the legal authority to adopt the Community Wellbeing Strategy under the general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) formalised the practice of partnership working to reduce crime and disorder and stipulated that the relevant local authority in each district/borough area would be the accountable body for the partnership and its activities.

This proposal enables the Council to fulfil its statutory partnership responsibilities. The Council delivers the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) function via the Chase Community Partnership, providing appropriate governance for community wellbeing activity and fulfilling statutory coordination duties alongside partners.

The strategy commits to collaboration with our partners and ensures that the Council's work complements wider statutory responsibilities across the local system. No new statutory obligations are created by adopting the strategy, it clarifies the Council's enabling role and partnership approach within existing legal frameworks.

Under section 149 Equality Act 2010, the Council must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between those who share protected characteristics and those who do not. While a standalone Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been prepared for this strategy document, the principles of equality and non-discrimination have been integrated into its development. Cabinet must satisfy itself that the strategy does not disproportionately impact any groups with protected characteristics.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

6.4 Risk Management

The key risk for this strategy, is that without appropriate, successful associated delivery of services, activities and actions the Council would not achieve its objectives. The strategy is a significant document in supporting the Council to deliver its corporate plan priorities in relation to Health and Wellbeing and the Community. To mitigate, there are proactive measures in place, including appropriate governance through the Chase Community Partnership, performance monitoring, flexibility and regular review.

All related service and project delivery will be managed in accordance with the Council's corporate risk management framework, ensuring consistency and transparency.

6.5 Equalities and Diversity

Equality considerations have been integrated into the development of the strategy and will continue throughout implementation and any further refinement. This may include the development of Equalities Impact Assessments to support key actions, ensure inclusive engagement and monitoring of outcomes to identify and address disparities.

6.6 Health

Failure to put community wellbeing at the heart of Council services and our Partnership is likely to have a detrimental impact on the overall health and wellbeing of our resident population and an inequitable impact on the most vulnerable in our communities.

The Community Wellbeing Strategy will take action to mitigate these impacts and will focus the work of Cannock Chase District Council and the Chase Community Partnership, to actively contribute to improving health outcomes, reducing health inequalities, incidents of crime and improving perceptions of community safety in Cannock Chase.

6.7 Climate Change

Consultation will take place with the Climate Change Officer to ensure that activities in the implementation plan are able to support the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

7 Appendices

Appendix 1: Community Wellbeing Strategy - 2026-2028

Appendix 2: Cannock Chase Community Wellbeing Evidence Base 2025

Appendix 3: Community Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Plan

8 Previous Consideration

None.

9 Background Papers

None.

Contact Officer:	Anna Nevin
Telephone Number:	01785 619 176
Ward Interest:	All
Report Track:	Cabinet: 16/07/26
Key Decision:	No

Community Wellbeing Strategy

2026-28



Foreword - Page 1

As a District Council we play a vital role in shaping the conditions that enable our communities to live healthy, safe, fulfilling and resilient lives. While the local NHS and county level public health services hold statutory responsibilities for clinical care and population health, District Councils influence many of the wider determinants of wellbeing. We have a statutory obligation to review our local strategic evidence base for Community Safety each year, aligning our priorities where possible with Staffordshire Police and the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office.

Through our services, partnerships and place based leadership we are uniquely positioned to tackle health inequalities by addressing barriers, championing prevention and creating communities where everyone can thrive. We can improve outcomes for residents through community safety and community confidence, safe and affordable housing, accessible green spaces, local economic prosperity and supportive social environments.

This strategy sets out our commitment to working collaboratively across the local system at a time of significant change for local government. Reorganisation, evolving funding arrangements and changes within both health and policing commissioning, require us to align our ambitions with countywide, regional and national priorities. We recognise the need to adapt, strengthen our relationships with health and voluntary sector partners and to ensure our work complements the wider strategic direction of Government policy.

Despite these challenges we also see important opportunities, to embed prevention at the heart of our communities, ensure that community voices can influence local decision making and target our efforts to where we can make the most difference. This strategy therefore provides the framework for how we will work with our partners to contribute to shared community safety and health and wellbeing outcomes; support the resilience of our communities and deliver a more equitable and integrated approach to wellbeing across Cannock Chase.

Portfolio Holder and Photo

Introduction - Page 2

Cannock Chase District Council's Community Wellbeing Strategy aims to put wellbeing and community safety at the heart of Council services. Working with our partners to increase healthy life expectancy, to improve and sustain both outcomes and perceptions of safety, health and wellbeing for our local communities. Ultimately, we want to contribute meaningfully to a reduction in health inequalities and incidents of crime in our District.

By adopting an evidence based and collaborative approach in addressing the root causes and risk factors that contribute to poor health outcomes, vulnerability, crime and disorder, we aim to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of those who live, work and visit Cannock Chase.

We know that healthcare services only contribute to a small proportion of our overall health and wellbeing. Almost every aspect of our lives, including how long we live, is impacted by various social, economic and environmental factors, often referred to as the wider determinants of health. This not only includes the food we eat, how much we exercise but also our jobs and homes, access to education and public transport and whether we experience poverty, crime or discrimination in our lives.

Behaviours and lifestyles, such as diet, exercise, sleep patterns, smoking, drug and alcohol consumption, all play an important part in our health and wellbeing. There is also increasing recognition of the key role that places, personal relationships and community networks have in influencing our behaviours.

This strategy aims to bring together the Council's statutory community safety and health and wellbeing functions, giving greater recognition to the relationship between the two in addressing the wider determinants of health. It also seeks to incorporate the broader responsibilities and work of the Council, so that these are encouraged and able to actively contribute to the community wellbeing agenda with the work of our partners, as part of the Chase Community Partnership.

The Council will adopt several roles to achieve the outcomes of this strategy and while the Council may deliver services, programmes and facilities, we will also advocate, facilitate and collaborate with our communities and other partners. Crucially, our communities have a role to play and the Council recognises that community wellbeing is everyone's responsibility. Therefore the importance of collaborative working with a diverse range of partners to engage, empower and enable our communities to make the most of the opportunities available to them cannot be underestimated.

This strategy sets out the Council's vision for the next 2 years, the principles we will use to achieve our strategic aims and objectives. It also highlights the workstreams we will use to concentrate time and resources on the most important issues for Cannock Chase. The outcome focussed activity of our Partnership will drive meaningful change and address the root causes of inequalities and poor health.

Health and Wellbeing in Cannock Chase 2026

Demographics



104,088 residents
(2024)



43,615
Households
(2022)



High population
density: 1,274
persons per square
kilometre (2021)



Indices of Deprivation
2025 identifies that
Cannock Chase is
most deprived in the
domains of Education
and Health



Around 8 years' gap
in life expectancy
between most and
least deprived areas
of Cannock Chase

Children & Young People



Smoking at time of
delivery (2024/2025):
Cannock Chase: 7.8%
England: 6.1%



Infant Mortality Rate
per 1,000 (2022-2024):
Cannock Chase: 4.1
England: 4.2

Year 6 Prevalence of
Overweight (inc. Obesity)
(2022/2023-2024/2025):
Cannock Chase: 39.7%
England: 36.2%



School Readiness (EYFS)
(2024/2025):
Cannock Chase: 66.3%
England: 68.3%



GCSE attainment: Percentage
Achieving Grades 9-5 English
and Mathematics (2024/2025):
Cannock Chase: 35.8%
England: 45.4%



% 18-24 Claiming Out of
Work Benefits/Universal
Credit (February 2026):
Cannock Chase: 6.9%
England: 5.9%

Adults



Economically Inactive due
to Long-term Sickness or
Disability (Census 2021):
Cannock Chase: 4.8%
England: 4.1%



Adults 18+ Prevalence
of Overweight (inc.
Obesity) (2023/2024):
Cannock Chase: 70.1%
England: 64.5%



Percentage Adults
Physically Active
(2023/2024):
Cannock Chase: 64.6%
England: 67.4%



Provides 50+ Hours
Unpaid Care per week
(Census 2021):
Cannock Chase: 3.3%
England: 2.6%



Depression Prevalence
18+ (2024-2025):
Cannock Chase: 18%
England: 14.3%



Anti-Social Behaviour
Incidents (per 1,000
population) (2023/2024):
Cannock Chase: 9.4
England: 16.8



Overall Crime (per
1,000 population)
(2024/2025):
Cannock Chase: 74
England & Wales: 87.2



Households owed a duty
under the Homelessness
Reduction Act (per 1,000
households) (2024/2025):
Cannock Chase: 3.7
England: 13.6



Under 75 Mortality Rate from
All Causes (per 100,000 population)
(2024):
Cannock Chase: 363.1
England: 329.4



Life Expectancy for Males
(2022-2024):
Cannock Chase: 79.1 years
England: 79.5 years

Life Expectancy for Females
(2022-2024):
Cannock Chase: 82.3 years
England: 83.3 years

Delivery Framework - Page 4 & 5

National Context

The national wellbeing agenda is shaped by a focus on reducing health inequalities, improving population health, perceptions of safety and creating more integrated and prevention led services. National policy emphasises the need to tackle the wider determinants of health, such as housing, employment, education and community safety, while strengthening early intervention to reduce pressure on acute services.

The environment in which we operate is facing a period of significant change, not least with the broader context and external influences of national legislation and policy but also with the proposed Local Government Reform (LGR), where the Government wants to replace Staffordshire's existing councils with a simpler system, by creating unitary councils to deliver the full range of local authority services, meaning that the existing local arrangements of districts, boroughs and the county council will be abolished in March 2028.

It was recently announced that Government intends to replace Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime Commissioners in 2028 with either Mayoral roles or Police & Fire Boards. To minimise disruption there is a commitment for delivery of a seamless transition to the new arrangements, through close working with statutory partners.

There is an ongoing reorganisation of Integrated Care Systems (ICS), bringing a merger of NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent with NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, under the new Integrated Care Board (ICB) cluster arrangements. The new arrangements are seeking to enable shared innovation, best practice, and a unified focus on improving health outcomes for the populations they serve.

Local Context

While Staffordshire is a relatively healthy and safe place to live, there are challenges, which are unevenly distributed and often have a strong association with income, deprivation or may be more concentrated among certain minority groups in our communities.

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board is the statutory body with responsibility for bringing together key partners across the NHS, public health, adult social care and children's services, including elected representatives and Healthwatch, to lead the agenda for health and wellbeing across the county and Cannock Chase District Council continue to contribute to this forum.

The challenges at county level are echoed in our District and include improving healthy life expectancy, reducing health inequalities and reducing demand on hospital services. Long term illness and disability affect a large proportion of the population and rates of child obesity are higher than national average.

We continue to feel the challenges of the cost of living crisis. There are some markers of improvement - inflation has reduced, real wages are starting to rise and interest rates may eventually decrease if inflation continues to decline. However, at a household level, many people are still struggling financially and adjusting to a more expensive way of life; we know that there are higher levels than national average of deprivation, low income families and unpaid carers in our District.

However, it is also important to recognise that Cannock Chase has many assets, which can be used to improve and benefit community wellbeing. There are a good selection of physical assets, such as Family Hubs and libraries; outstanding green spaces and leisure facilities and there is a vast selection of available information, advice and guidance. There are also a

variety of effective partnerships in place, co-ordinating targeted activity, such as the Family Improvement Boards, Better Health Staffordshire and Cannock Chase Can.

As a District Council we play a vital role in shaping the conditions that enable our communities to live healthy, fulfilling and resilient lives. We can influence and positively impact many of the wider determinants of wellbeing through our services, strategic enabling role, partnerships and place based leadership.

Local Governance

The Council lead the Chase Community Partnership, which is the mechanism for delivery of the statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) function for Cannock Chase District and provides the appropriate governance for delivery of community wellbeing activity. The Partnership represents the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, and plays a vital role in bringing together organisations with a shared purpose through co-operative and co-ordinated joint working designed to improve community, environmental and economic wellbeing in the District.

The Chase Community Partnership Board (CCPB) consists of Political Leaders and participating partners' decision makers. It is responsible for setting the vision and strategic priorities for the Partnership for the year ahead. The Board will ultimately steer the work programme of the Partnership and will provide leadership for achieving the desired outcomes for our District.

Operational working groups consist of strategic and operational representatives from key partners and coordinate practical delivery of the work programme for the Partnership. The detail of the Partnership's work programme is outlined in the 'Community Wellbeing Implementation Plan'; regular reporting of progress against the plan will be shared with CCPB as appropriate.

The Council will adopt several roles to achieve the outcomes of this strategy (and the accompanying 'Community Wellbeing Implementation Plan'). While we may deliver services, programmes and facilities, we will also lead, advocate, facilitate and collaborate with our partners and communities.

Council services contributing to Community Wellbeing, include:

- Community development programmes and partnerships
- Community culture and leisure facilities and venues
- Community safety and CCTV
- Homelessness, Housing Options and Housing
- Emergency incident response and resilience
- Environmental Health services
- Licensing
- Planning
- Economic Development
- Waste management and recycling

The Council fully recognises that it cannot deliver this strategy alone and works with a range of partners in the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to collaborate towards shared objectives for our communities.

To support achieving the ambitions of this strategy there is an accompanying detailed implementation plan setting out the practical actions we will take with our partners, to bring it to life, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for deliverables. There are also a number of other local strategies and delivery plans that complement and support this

agenda, for example the Council's Homelessness and Housing Options Strategy and Staffordshire Commissioners Office's Police and Crime Plan.

DRAFT

Vision and Values – Page 6 & 7

The shared vision for our District is.....

Together we create a healthy, safe, and connected Cannock Chase District, where everyone has the opportunity to live well and thrive.

The vision for our Partnership will be delivered using the following values and principles.....

<i>Ensuring an evidence based approach, that acknowledges and seeks to understand the root causes and risk factors impacting on individuals, to reduce inequalities and drive decision making.</i>	<i>Prioritising prevention, early intervention, improvement and innovation.</i>
<i>Leading a multi-agency systemic approach, supported by strong governance and delivery arrangements for the Partnership.</i>	<i>Building resilience and capacity with our communities - engaging, shaping and sharing ownership of wellbeing activity in response to local needs.</i>
<i>Robust and outcome-focussed performance management and the promotion of continuous development across the Partnership.</i>	<i>Ensuring synergy with other related strategies and services, to avoid duplication and maximise impact to our communities.</i>

What are we seeking to achieve?

There are two overarching outcomes that we are seeking to achieve which are.....

<i>Healthy, active and fulfilled communities</i>	<i>Safe, resilient and connected communities</i>
<i>We will support our communities to have confidence in their futures and provide opportunities to enable them to make healthy and active lifestyle choices, with access to the services and facilities they need.</i>	<i>We will encourage our communities to feel safe, strong, valued and included. We will offer access to timely information and appropriate support, to help them thrive and have pride in their localities.</i>

Our aims

We will create an effective partnership environment whereby we:

- bring together partners with a shared purpose
- create a shared vision to achieve positive outcomes
- focus on our communities and their needs and aspirations
- share collective resources and information (where possible)
- add value, prioritising resilience, sustainability and independence

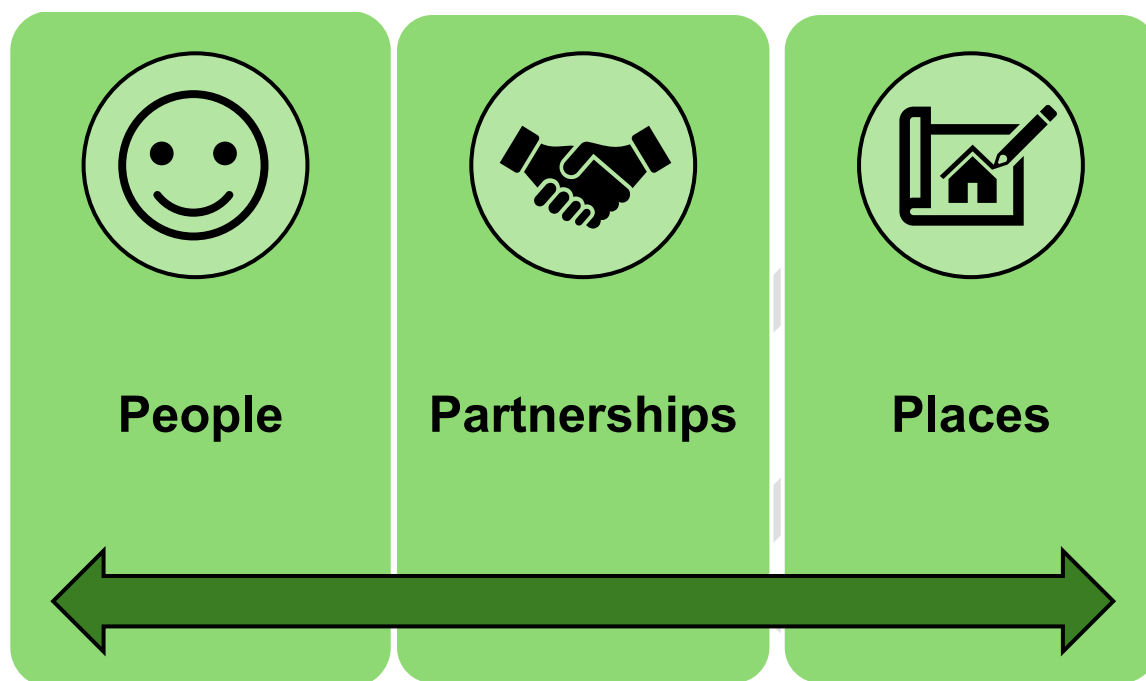
Our objectives

We will achieve our outcomes by.....

- Embedding wellbeing across all Council functions
- Strengthening cross sector partnership working by providing a forum for debate and delivery on issues best tackled by working together
- Engaging and empowering communities to have a voice, and take supported action on matters that are important to them through a strengths-based approach
- Ensuring timely and fair access to accurate and appropriate information and advice
- Maximising use of existing local assets, facilitating new opportunities and removing duplication
- Providing optimal environments for healthier and safer living.

Workstreams for delivery – Page 8 & 9

The '**Community Wellbeing Implementation Plan**' is intended to be a living document that will be updated and developed continuously. The plan is seeking to capture and monitor progress on tangible actions that enable us to deliver on our aims and objectives (as set out above), with a framework for delivery divided into three interdependent workstreams for delivery:



People

Community wellbeing starts with people thriving.

It's all about bringing people together. We want everyone to feel included, safe and supported, creating stronger communities that boost wellbeing.

Examples of our activities within this workstream may include:

- Ensuring range of **accessible engagement opportunities** are available to gain meaningful participation from our residents
- Fostering a sense of belonging and pride in our communities – **community pride and wellbeing events**, gardening competitions
- Encouraging **intergenerational connections and social cohesion** to ensure that all ages are supported and valued
- Strengthening local leadership by building community capacity and **encouraging volunteering and participation**
- Developing range of **prevention and early intervention activities** to promote healthy lifestyles e.g. weight management, diabetes, reducing smoking, alcohol consumption and substance use such as **classes, outdoor activities, grown and eat**
- Further **developing and enhancing the Cannock Chase Can branding and resource** into a trusted, district-level information, advice and guidance directory and regularly review its impact to ensure it reaches the right people at the right time
- Creating a **Communication Plan and campaigns calendar** to promote key community safety and wellbeing messaging to the community.

Partnerships

Working together for healthier and safer futures.

We join forces with partners and share ideas to make real change happen. By working together, we can create better opportunities for community wellbeing.

Examples of our activities within this workstream may include:

- Ensuring that **effective partnerships** are in place and maintained to support community safety and the wellbeing of our residents
- **Engaging and influencing commissioning and delivery of local services** that support community safety initiatives and wellbeing of our residents e.g. CCTV, ASB responses, youth violence
- **Strengthening partnerships** with **VCSE** local organisations, community groups, Town and Parish Councils and our residents to **generate new ideas and opportunities**
- Explore opportunities for the **partnership workforce** to implement further joint working, collaboration and service integration
- Using the **collective partnership resources** most appropriately and working to identify and reduce duplication.

Places

Better spaces for healthier and safer living.

We're improving neighbourhoods and public spaces so they're safe, green, and welcoming – places that help everyone live well and feel proud of where they live.

Examples of our activities within this workstream may include:

- Being **aspirational** in the way we **improve places** e.g. empty homes, planning, licensing, food hygiene inspections, waste collection, trading standards, patrols
- **Enable the community to deliver Pride in Place** initiatives, empowering them to lead and shape visible improvements in their neighbourhoods
- **Promoting active lifestyles** and **access to nature and open spaces**, recognising the role of the local environment in improving wellbeing
- **Responding to areas of concern** in local community e.g. problematic disused buildings and other unloved areas, which if ignored may decline further or create more serious issues
- Developing more **accessible and safer routes** for walking, cycling and other outdoor recreation
- Promoting the provision of **suitable accommodation**, services, information and advice to prevent and reduce homelessness.

Measuring our impact - what will be different – Page 10

This strategy provides the vision for what we are seeking to achieve in Cannock Chase and will guide everything we do with our partners and communities.

It is essential that we regularly review our approach, to make sure that we feel that we are making good progress against the tasks we assign with our partners. We will develop a range of detailed qualitative and quantitative performance measures and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under each of the outcomes and objectives of this strategy, to be monitored on a quarterly basis and these will form part of an annual review report to our **Chase Community Partnership Board (CCPB)**.

As a minimum there will be a mid point review of the strategy, to ensure that the strategic direction continues to align to our corporate plan and strategic partnership intentions, also considering the impact of the evolving plans for Local Government Reform (LGR).

This will ensure that the strategy and accompanying implementation plan continues to effectively contribute to achieving our overarching vision and is able to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities to meet the priorities of our communities.

The review will also encourage feedback from our partners and communities on:

- accessibility of information, advice and guidance promoted by the Council and Chase Community Partnership
- resident engagement with council departments, shaping service delivery, policy and commissioning
- confidence in and perceptions of community safety and cohesion
- understanding and perceptions of community capacity
- engagement and participation with the community development offer
- awareness, participation and perceptions of local opportunities / assets and facilities to support active lifestyles and wellbeing.

For further information on any of the content of this strategy please contact the Wellbeing Team at Cannock Chase District Council by email - XXX@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

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Appendices/ Other sources of information

- CCDC Corporate Plan 2026 - 28
- CCDC - Community Wellbeing Strategy Logic Model - 2026
- CCDC Evidence Base (Health) 2025
- Cannock Chase Community Safety Needs Assessment 2026
- Cannock Chase Housing and Homelessness Strategy
- Cannock Chase District Profile
- Cannock Chase Primary Care Network (PCN) Data Packs (x3)
- Staffordshire Policing Plan (2025 - 2027)
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan (2025-2028)
- Police and Crime Plan 2024 – 2028 Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent
- Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy
- Staffordshire County Council Public Health and Prevention Plan
- Staffordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Tackling Health Inequalities Strategy 2024–2029 - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB

Cannock Chase Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-28

Evidence Base for Key Health
and Wellbeing Indicators

Introduction

This evidence base highlights key health and wellbeing priorities for Cannock Chase by examining a broad range of data, from statistics reflecting lifestyle behaviours which impact on wellbeing to clinical indicators such as premature mortality.

The prevailing impact of health inequalities is evident across the life course of residents in Cannock Chase. The district experiences considerable deprivation, particularly in relation to education and health.¹ There are 5 output areas across Cannock Chase which are within the top 5% most deprived in the UK in terms of health deprivation². The district has a high population density of 1,274 people per square kilometre rising to more than 4,900 in Cannock North MSOA in 2021.³ Population estimates forecast an increase in the proportion of older age residents over the next decade.⁴ Combined with evidence of high population density, this forecast increase in residents more likely to experience health needs could apply disproportionate pressure to public health services in the district.⁵

Recent figures indicate that the rate of smoking at time of delivery in Cannock Chase was the highest in Staffordshire. The rate of infant mortality in the district, whilst having seen a recent fall, has also typically been relatively high. The prevalence of children identified to be overweight/obese in Cannock Chase via the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is above both the county and national average with almost 40% of young people in Year 6 identified to be overweight/obese in data covering the period 2022/23-2024/25. Recent figures for educational development at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage, alongside those for educational attainment at GCSE in Cannock Chase fall below the national average and are among the lowest in Staffordshire. Youth unemployment is also typically high with 6.9% of young people aged 18-24 claiming out-of-work benefit in February 2026.

¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK](#) (October 2025)

² Combining poor general health and limiting long-term illness based on Census 2021 data. See 'A deprivation index for the UK: exploring spatial variations within and between nations UKDI Short Briefing' issue 1, Christopher D. Lloyd, Gemma Catney, Sara Ferguson, David McLennan and Paul Norman <https://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/GIS/Research/Deprivation/FileStore/UKDI%20Short%20Briefing%201%20-%20Introducing%20the%20UKDI%20FINAL.pdf>

³ Office for National Statistics, How the Population Changed in Cannock Chase: Census 2021, June 2022

⁴ Office for National Statistics, Subnational Population Projections for England: 2022-based, June 2025.

⁵ Office for National Statistics, Census 2021. Census 2021 data for Cannock Chase illustrates that older residents were more likely to report poor health, high levels of disability and provide unpaid care.

Health inequalities impact a significant proportion of adults in Cannock Chase. Almost 5% of residents reported experiencing 'Bad Health' in Census 2021. More than 20% of Cannock Chase residents identified that their daily activities were limited by physical or mental health conditions which rendered them disabled under the Equality Act in 2021. The proportion of people who identified that disability limited their daily activities 'a lot' in Census 2021 (9%) was above the England average (7.5%).⁶ Health issues form a barrier to employment, with 4.8% of local people identifying that they were economically inactive due to long-term sickness or disability in 2021.

Current data indicates that the prevalence of adult obesity in the district is around the highest in Staffordshire. However, it is positive that estimates suggest nearly 65% of adults identify themselves as physically active. In addition, almost 3,000 local residents are registered as users of the Cannock Chase Can wellbeing app.

More than 10% of people living in Cannock Chase provide unpaid care weekly. 3.3% provided 50+ hours unpaid care per week in 2021 which was above the England average of 2.6%. Mental health issues such as depression have a relatively high prevalence and are disproportionately spread across the district.

Levels of crime and Anti-social Behaviour in Cannock Chase are well below the national averages, although localities across the district experience varying levels of violence and sexual offences as well as ASB and shoplifting in more urban/commercial areas.

A relatively low proportion of households in the district are owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act. A significant proportion of households at risk of homelessness and, particularly single-person homeless applicants, in Cannock Chase present with a support need. Data suggests that a higher proportion of households in the district present with a history of mental, physical health issues and disability than in the West Midlands more widely.⁷

The health and wellbeing issues identified above may be contributing factors towards high rates of premature mortality and low life expectancy in Cannock Chase. Under 75 mortality was the highest in the county and above the England average in 2024. Life expectancy in the district is the lowest across Staffordshire for both males and females, with people living in the most deprived areas of Cannock Chase estimated to live around 8 years less than those living in the least deprived localities. This reflects the reciprocal relationship between deprivation and poor health outcomes as well as the impact of health inequalities throughout the life-course for residents in Cannock Chase.

⁶ Office for National Statistics, Census 2021.

⁷ HCLIC Data courtesy of Cannock Chase Council, April 2026. Please note there are some quality considerations around this data which should be interpreted as indicative of trends only.

Demographics

Population

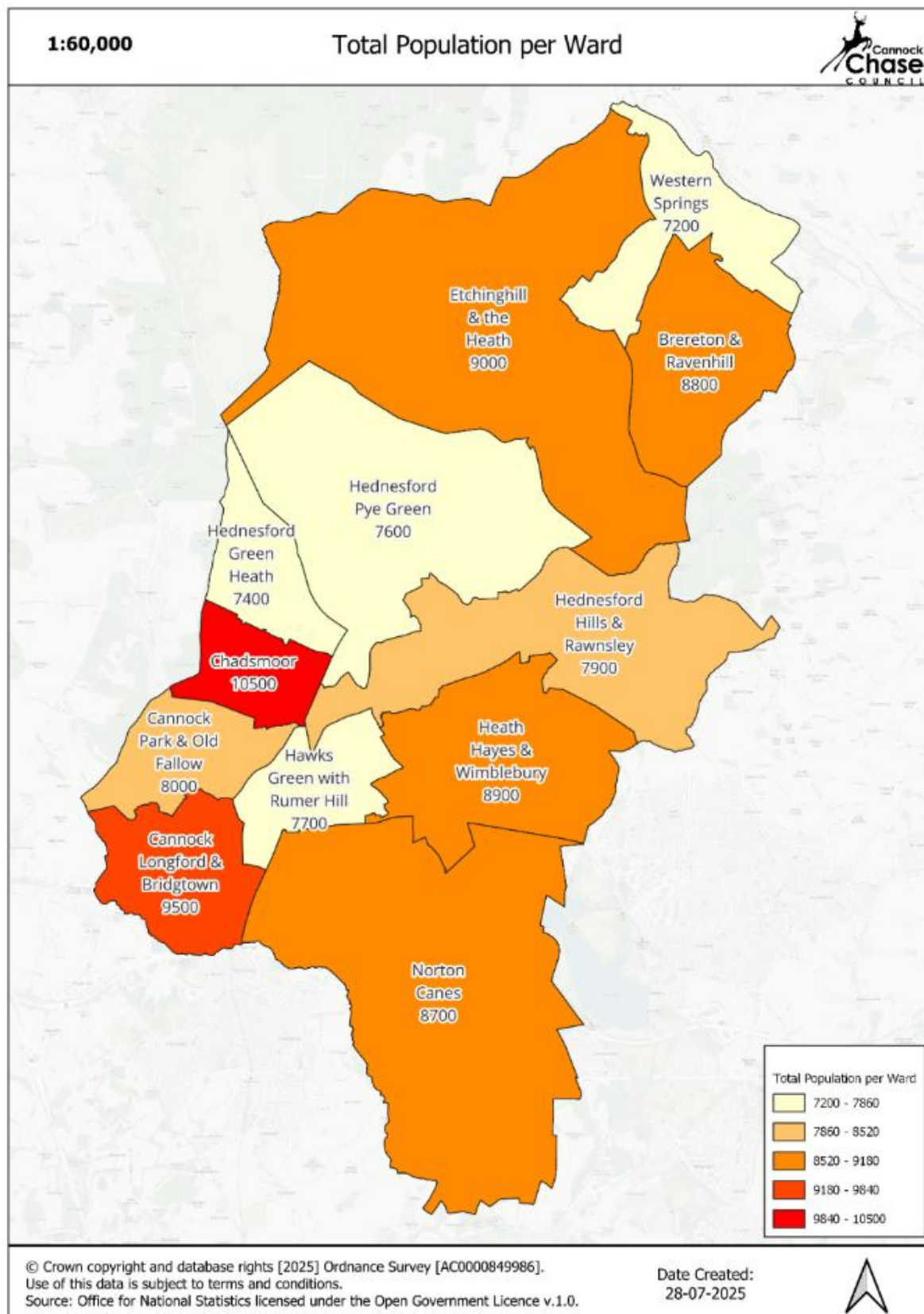
104,088 people were estimated to be resident in Cannock Chase in mid-2024. The population saw an annual increase of 0.9% between 2023 and 2024, the main contributor to which was internal migration - people moving into the district from other local authorities.

Mid-2024 Population 104,088 persons Rise from 103,163 in 2023	Change since 2023 +0.9%
Births +941 Fall from 2023	Deaths -1056 Fall from 2023
Net Internal Migration 866 Fall from 2023	Net International Migration 181 Fall from 2023

Source: Office for National Statistics, Population Estimates for England & Wales, mid-2024 (July 2025)

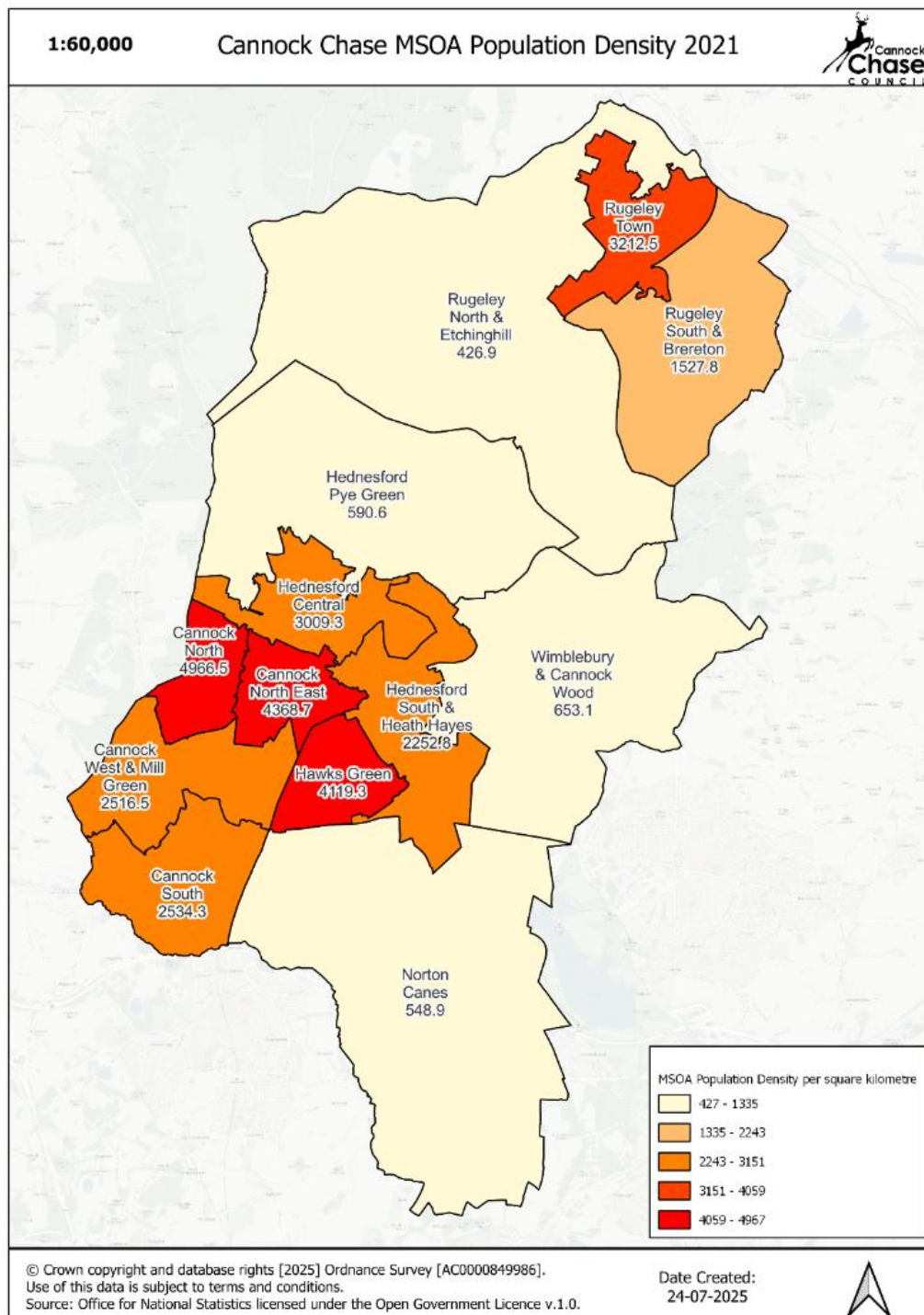
Cannock Chase Wards

From 2023 Cannock Chase is divided into 12 electoral wards. The map below shows the geography of ward division across the district and the population (rounded no. persons) living in each of the Cannock Chase wards.



Population Density

Census 2021 data indicates that Cannock Chase is in the top 40% most densely populated English local authority areas and the 12th most densely populated of the 30 local authority areas within the West Midlands.⁸ The map below divides Cannock Chase into 13 Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs) to indicate where population density is the highest and lowest across the district.



⁸ Office for National Statistics, How the Population Changed in Cannock Chase: Census 2021, June 2022

Population Projections 2022-2032

The population of Cannock Chase is forecast to rise by more than 7% to around 108,413 people by 2032. This is higher than the projected population increase for England which is around 6.4%.

Population in 2032 108,413 persons Rise from 101,144 in 2022	Change since 2022 +7.2% Above the England average 6.4%
Net Internal Migration +8,255 Persons Projected to be the largest factor in population increase	Projected median age 42 years No change from 2022 - slightly above England average of 41 years.

Source: Office for National Statistics, Subnational Population Projections for England: 2022-based, June 2025.

Ageing Population

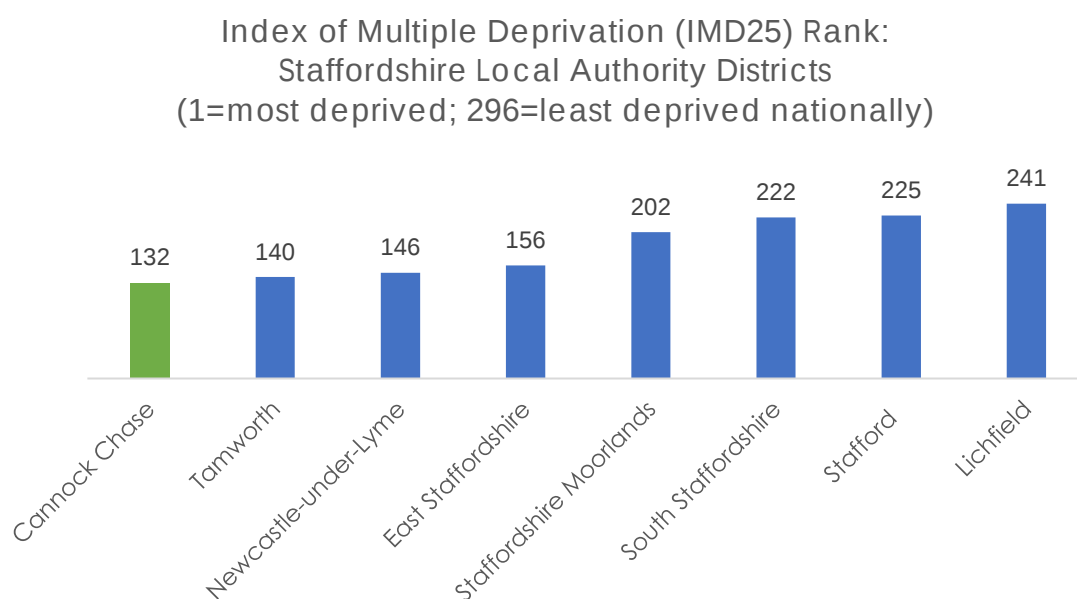
The majority of local authorities across England are projected to see an increase in the proportion of residents at State Pension age by 2032. 21% of the Cannock Chase population are forecast to be aged 65+ in 2032, compared to 19% in 2022. The old age dependency ratio (the number of people of State Pension age for every 1,000 working age persons) is projected to rise from 292 to 306 by 2032 which is above the forecast England average of 287.⁹

⁹ Office for National Statistics, Subnational Population Projections for England: 2022-based, June 2025.

Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation ranks small areas in England (Lower Super Output Areas or LSOAs) from the most deprived to the least deprived based on different domains of deprivation: income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment. These seven domains are combined to form the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD25).¹⁰

Based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation Rank, where 1 is the most deprived local authority district in England and 296 is the least deprived, Cannock Chase is ranked as the most deprived local authority in Staffordshire.

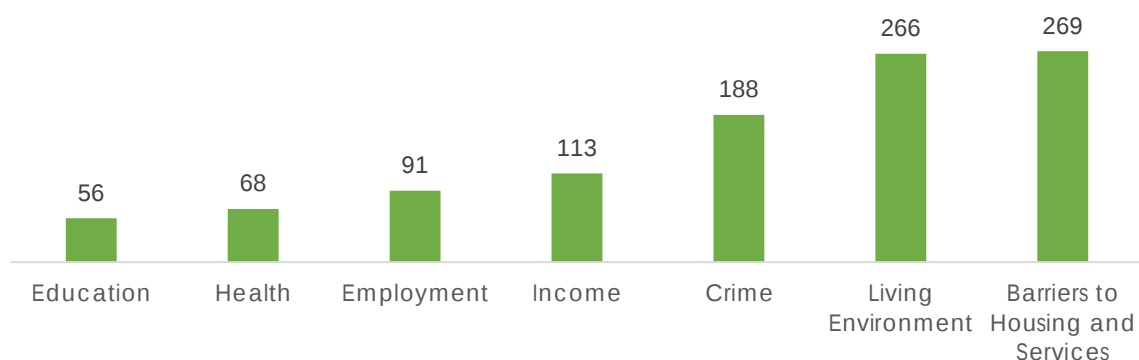


Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK](#) (October 2025).

The chart below indicates how Cannock Chase is ranked in relation to the other 295 local authority districts in England across the seven different domains within the Indices of Deprivation 2025.

¹⁰ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK](#) (October 2025).

Cannock Chase: Rankings Across the 7 Domains of the
Indices of Deprivation 2025
(1 = most deprived; 296 = least deprived nationally)



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK](#) (October 2025).

Cannock Chase is ranked as being particularly deprived in the domains of Education and Health, yet close to the least deprived nationally for Living Environment and Barriers to Housing and Services.

Across Cannock Chase there are 4 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which have been in the top 20% most deprived areas nationally in all editions of the Indices of Deprivation published between 2004 and 2025 inclusive. These areas – within Etching Hill & The Heath, Hednesford Pye Green and Chadsmoor wards - are persistently deprived and represent challenged localities facing inequality with the highest need for targeted support.¹¹

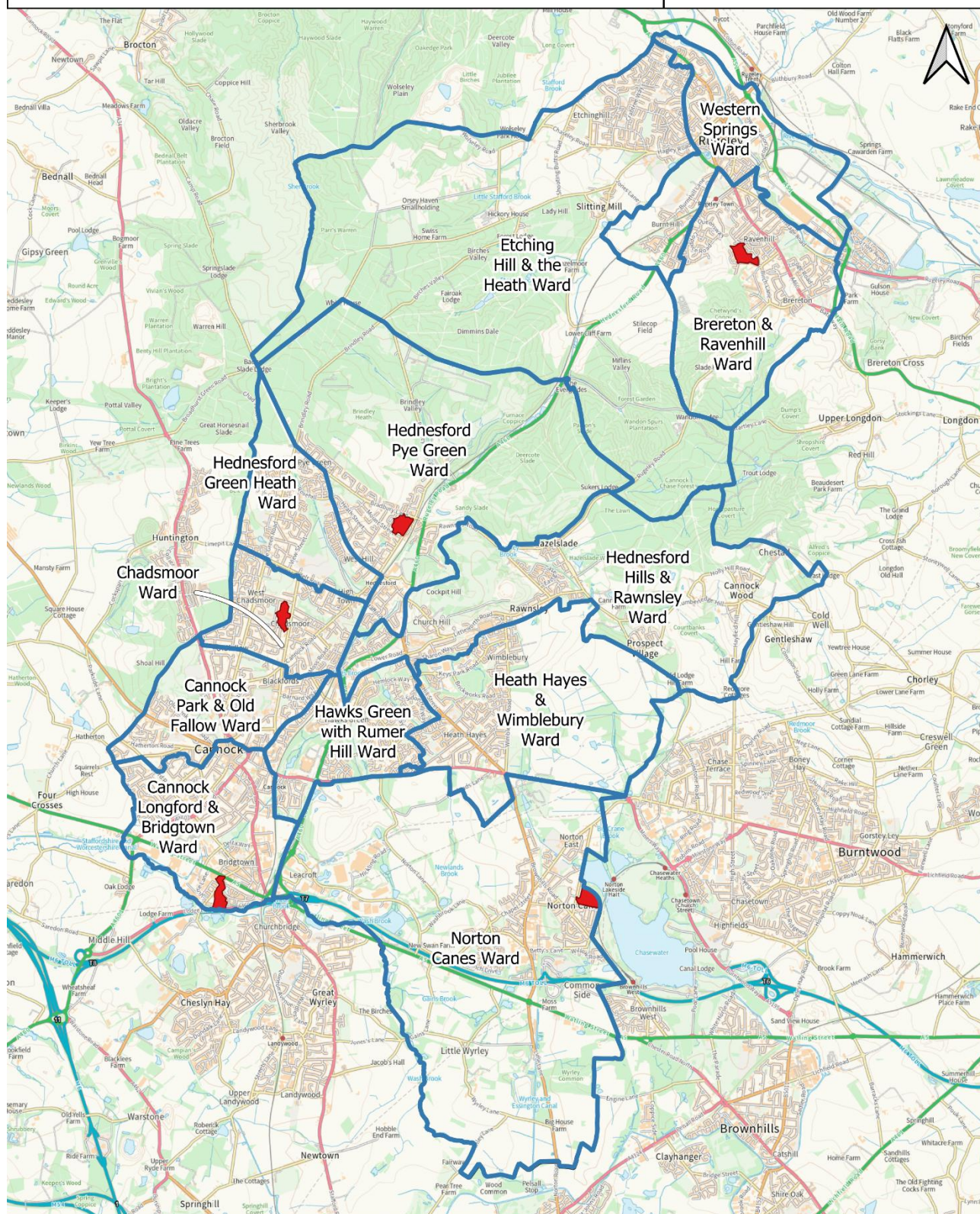
A number of Output Areas across Cannock Chase – localities containing around 40-250 households - are within the most deprived in the UK based on the UK Deprivation Index (UKDI). This index combines data relating to unemployment, qualifications and age standardised poor health from Census 2021.¹² With reference specifically to the health deprivation dimension of the UKDI, there are 5 Output Areas across Cannock Chase within the top 5% most deprived in the UK. These output areas are highlighted in red on the district/ward map below which indicates the location of communities across Cannock Chase that may be particularly affected by health inequalities.

¹¹ Lloyd, C. D., Ferguson, S., Catney, G., McLennan, D. and Norman, P. (2025) *Trajectories of deprivation in the UK*. Main Public Output. Belfast: Queen's University Belfast.
<https://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/GIS/Research/Deprivation/>

¹² A deprivation index for the UK: exploring spatial variations within and between nations UKDI Short Briefing issue 1, Christopher D. Lloyd, Gemma Catney, Sara Ferguson, David McLennan and Paul Norman <https://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/GIS/Research/Deprivation/FileStore/UKDI%20Short%20Briefing%201%20-%20Introducing%20the%20UKDI%20FINAL.pdf>.

Output Areas in the top 5% most deprived in the UK based on health deprivation measures within the UK deprivation index (UKDI)

Date Created: 15/04/2026



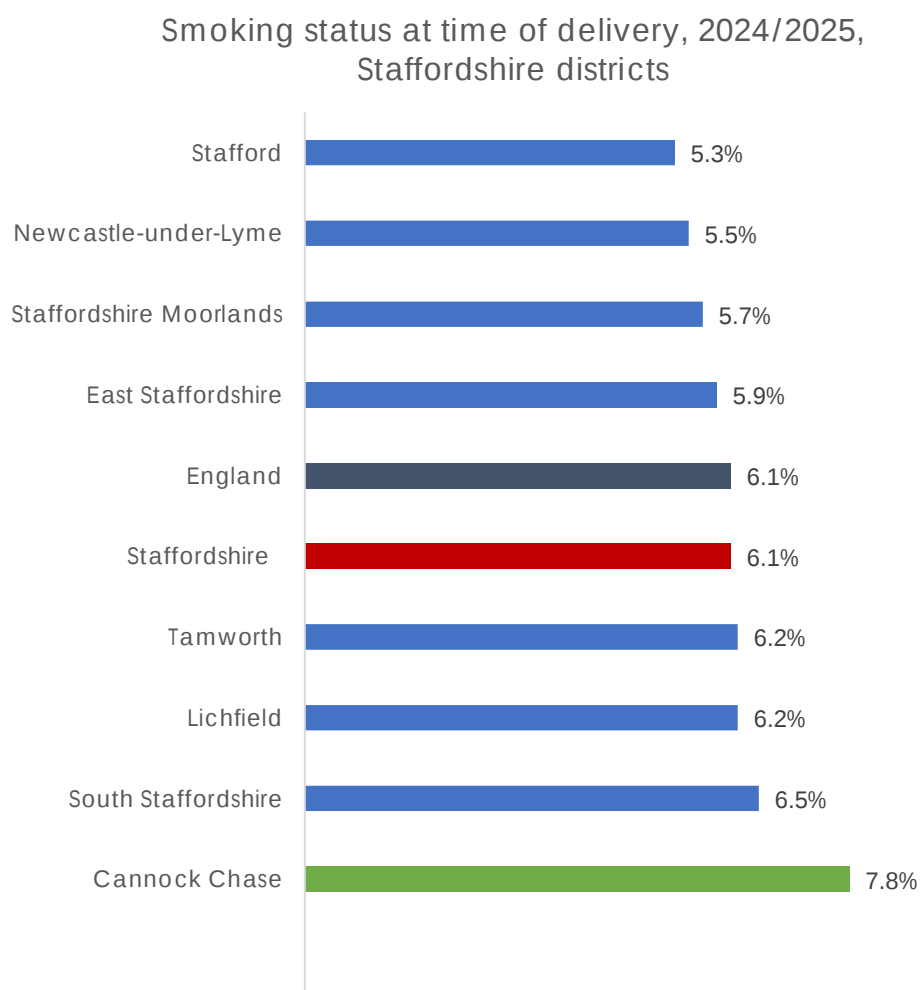
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Children & Young People

Smoking Status at Time of Delivery

7.8% of Cannock Chase mothers were smokers at the time of delivery during the period 2024-2025. Whilst this rate showed a decrease on figures for 2023/2024 (8.2%), the prevalence of smoking at time of delivery in Cannock Chase remained the highest in Staffordshire and above the county (6.1%) and national (6.1%) averages.



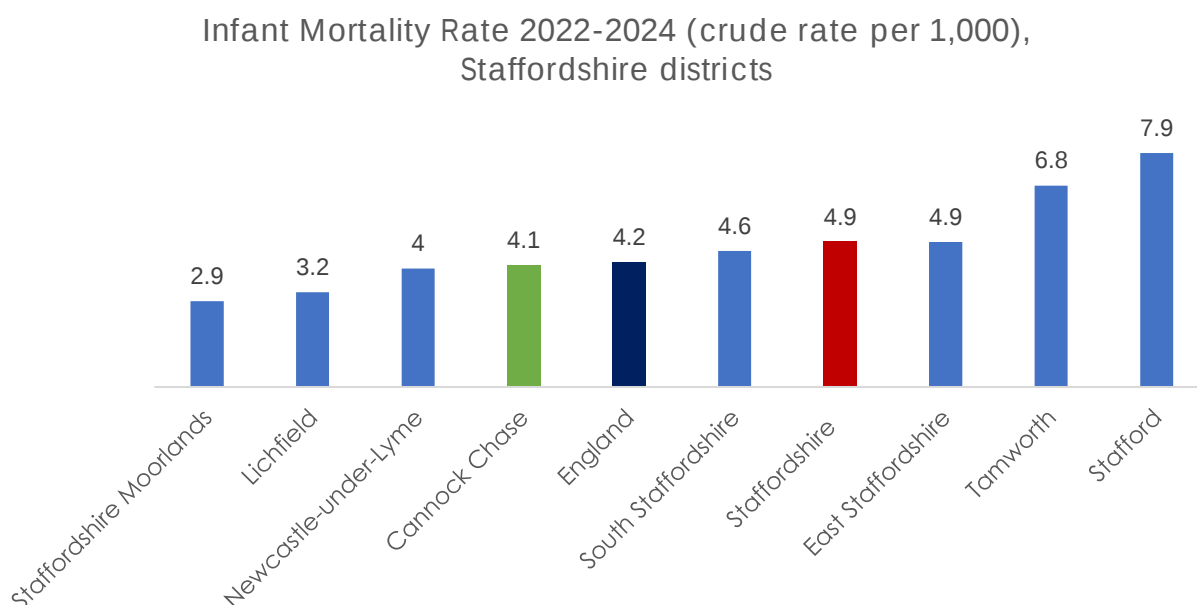
Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026]

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate relates to the rate of infant deaths under 1 year of age per 1000 live births and is recognised as an indicator of the wider health of the population.

The infant mortality rate in Cannock Chase fell from a local value of 7.5 during 2019-2021 to a rate of 6.9 during the period 2020-2022 and has continued to fall in subsequent years. Figures for 2022-2024 indicate that the infant mortality rate in Cannock Chase was 4.1 – the 4th lowest across Staffordshire and slightly below the national (4.2) average.

However, it is worth noting advice that rates for a number of areas in Staffordshire during this period should be treated with caution, as their reliability as a measure may be affected by the small number of events during the reference period.

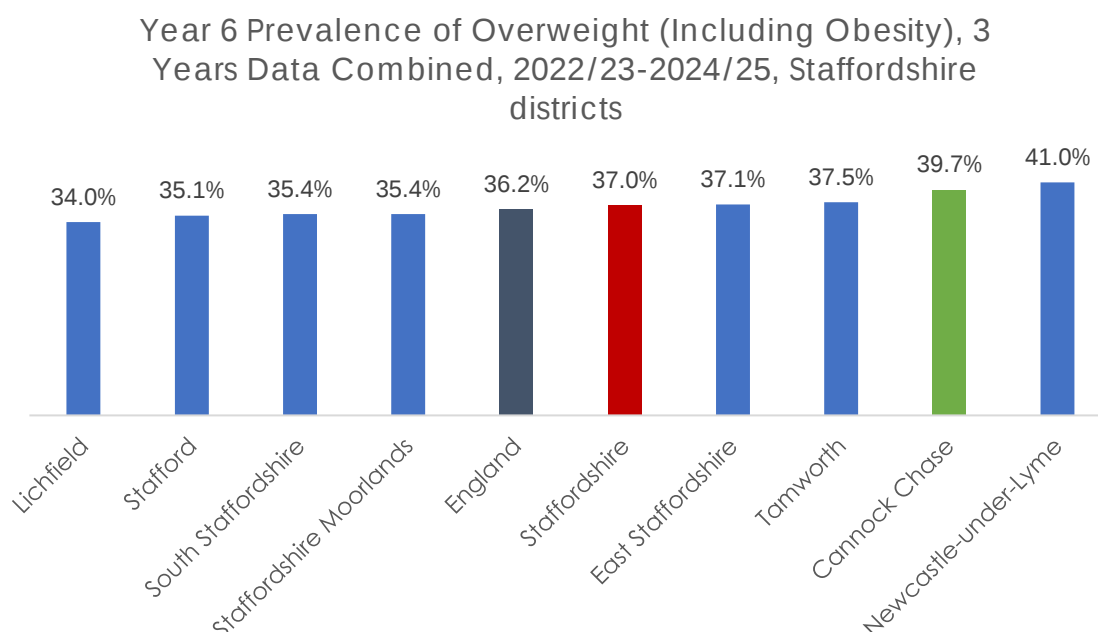


Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026]. Please note: data for Staffordshire Moorlands, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire, East Staffordshire and Tamworth should be interpreted with caution.

For indicator definitions and advice on interpretation please consult supporting information for the relevant indicator via Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026]

Year 6 (Age 10-11 years) Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity

Child obesity is identified as contributing towards a range of poor health outcomes. The prevalence of Year 6 age children measured by the Department of Health and Social Care National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) guidelines to be overweight in Cannock Chase was the second highest in Staffordshire at 39.7% based on 3 years data combined in the period 2022/23-2024/25. The Cannock Chase prevalence figure was above county and national comparators.



Source: Department of Health and Social Care, National Child Measurement Programme. Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026]

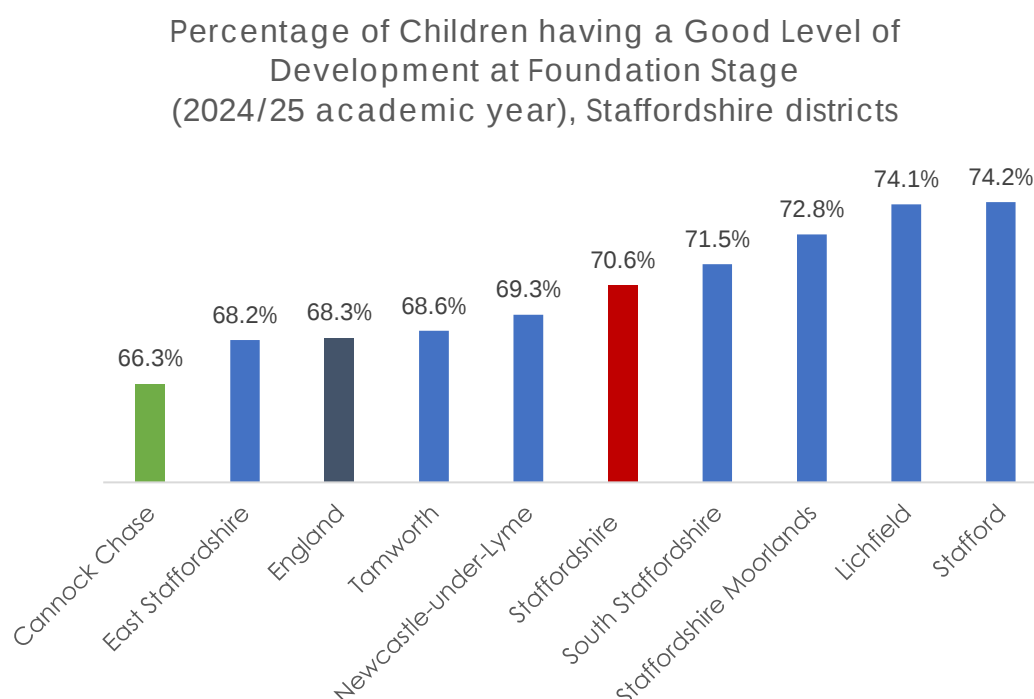
Five wards in the district had an average prevalence of overweight (inc. obesity) at Year 6 age (10-11 years) which was above the district average. These were Brereton & Ravenhill (41.3%), Norton Canes (41.8%), Cannock Park and Old Fallow (41.9%), Cannock Longford & Bridgtown (42.4%) and Chadsmoor (46.2%).

Child BMI tracking data from the NCMP indicates that Cannock Chase had the second highest proportion across Staffordshire for the percentage of reception children moving from healthy weight in reception to overweight (including obesity) in year 6 during the reference period 2021/2022-2023/2024 at 24.1% compared to a county average of (21.8%).¹³

¹³ All data sourced from Department of Health and Social Care, National Child Measurement Programme. Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026

Percentage of Pupils having a Good Level of Development at Foundation Stage (End of EYFS), 2024/2025

Educational attainment is reciprocally linked to children's health and wellbeing.¹⁴ Cannock Chase had the lowest proportion of pupils assessed as being at the expected level at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) across Staffordshire in the academic year 2024/25. The Cannock Chase proportion of 66.3% was below the county (70.6%) and national (68.3%) averages.



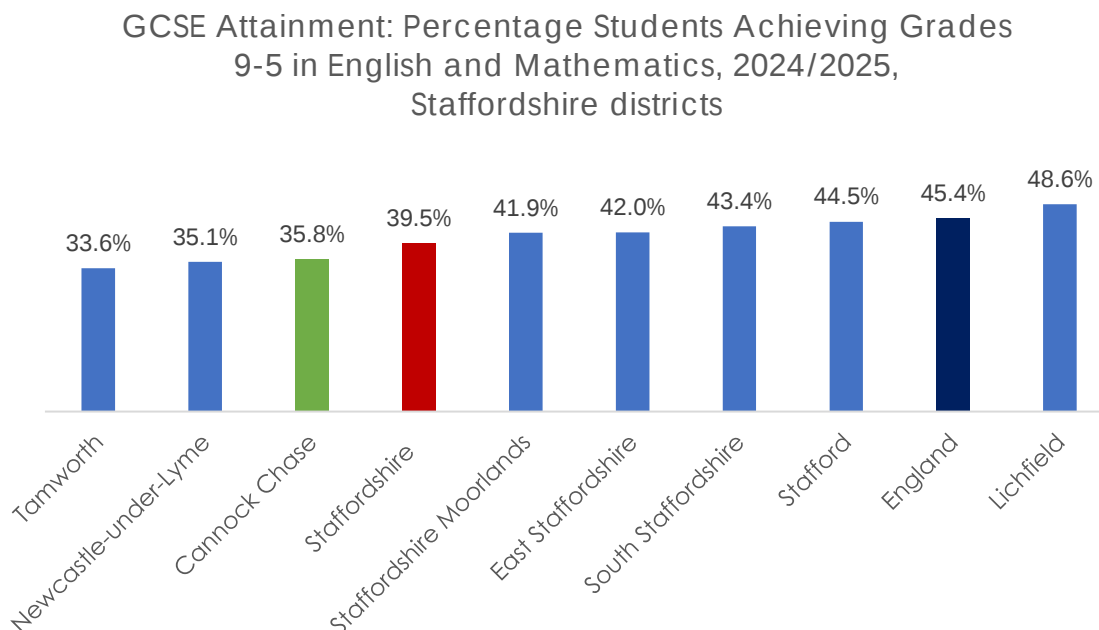
Source: LG Inform sourced from Department for Education, 2026. [Percentage of children having a good level of development at foundation stage in Cannock Chase | LG Inform](#)

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026] See particularly Obesity, Physical Activity and Nutrition Profile.

¹⁴ Public Health England, The link between pupil health and wellbeing and attainment (November 2014) [HT briefing layoutvFINALvii.pdf](#)

GCSE Attainment

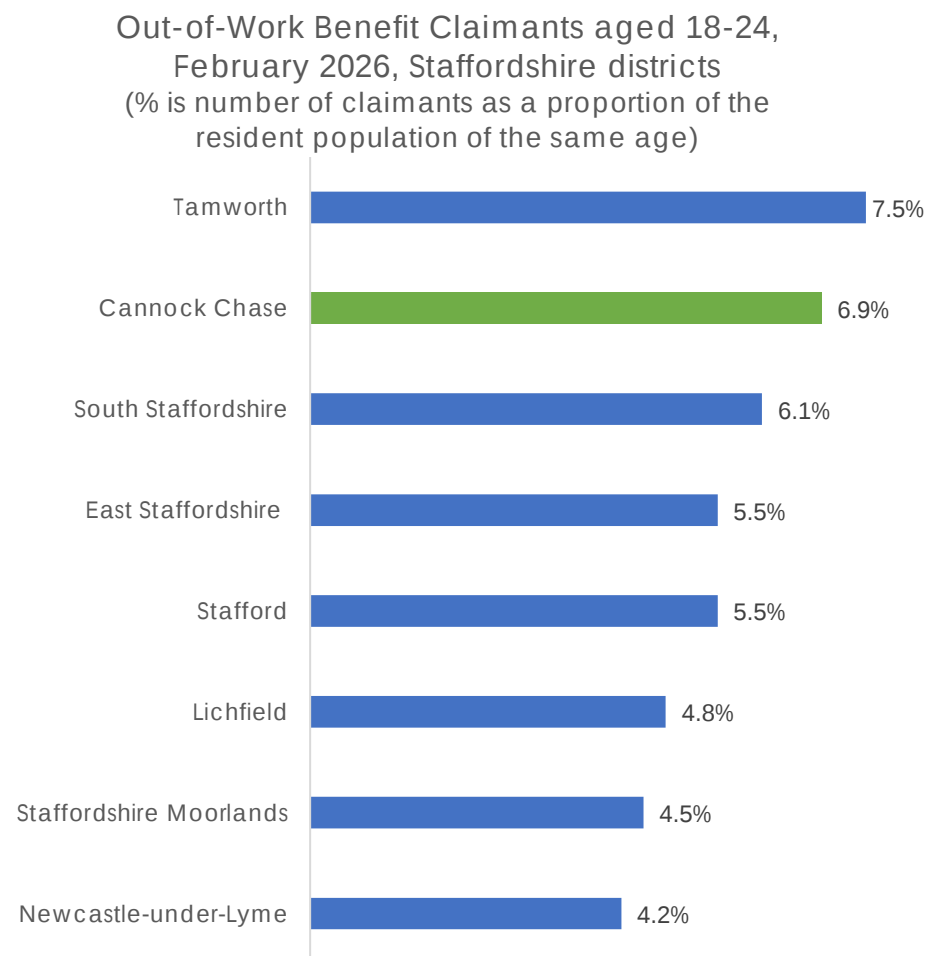
Data relating to educational attainment at GCSE level indicates that Cannock Chase had the third lowest proportion of students achieving Grades 9-5 in English and Mathematics across Staffordshire in the academic year 2024/2025.



Source: LG Inform sourced from Department for Education, 2026. [Percentage achieving 9-5 in English & mathematics in Cannock Chase | LG Inform](#)

Youth Unemployment

Being unemployed or NEET (not in education, employment or training) can have a detrimental impact on mental health and is more common among young people from areas of deprivation and those with fewer qualifications.¹⁵ Whilst the proportion of 16-17 year olds claiming out of work benefit was similar across the majority of Staffordshire districts in February 2026, Cannock Chase had the second highest proportion of young people aged 18-24 claiming out of work benefit at a rate of 6.9% which was above England average of 5.9%.



Source: ONS Claimant Count, Office for National Statistics via NOMISweb [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

¹⁵ [Alan Milburn calls for a 'movement' to address lost generation of young people not earning or learning as investigation opens - GOV.UK](#)

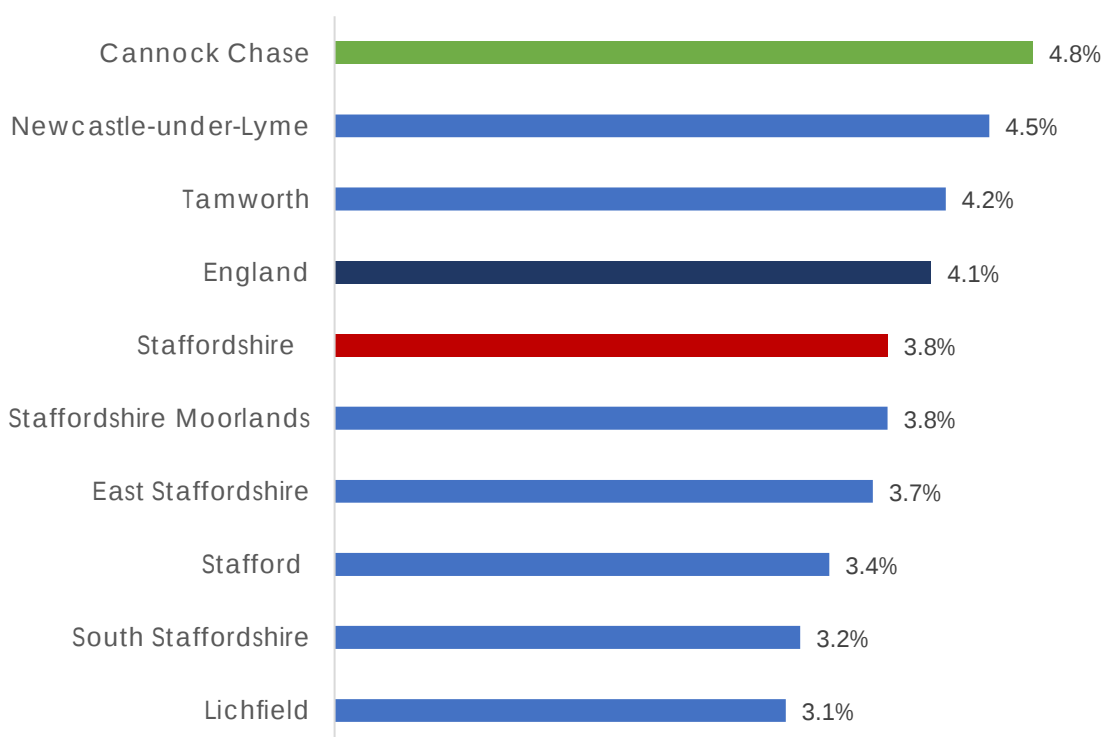
Adults

Economically Inactive due to Ill-Health

Cannock Chase had the highest proportion across Staffordshire for residents reporting that they experienced 'Bad Health' (4.9%) or 'Very Bad Health' (1.5%) at the time of Census 2021.

Health inequalities form a barrier to employment for a significant proportion of people living in Cannock Chase. The district had the highest proportion across Staffordshire for residents who identified that they were economically inactive due to long-term sickness or disability in 2021 at 4.8%, a proportion which was above the England average (4.1%).

Census 2021: Proportion of Residents Economically Inactive due to Long-term Sickness or Disability, Staffordshire districts

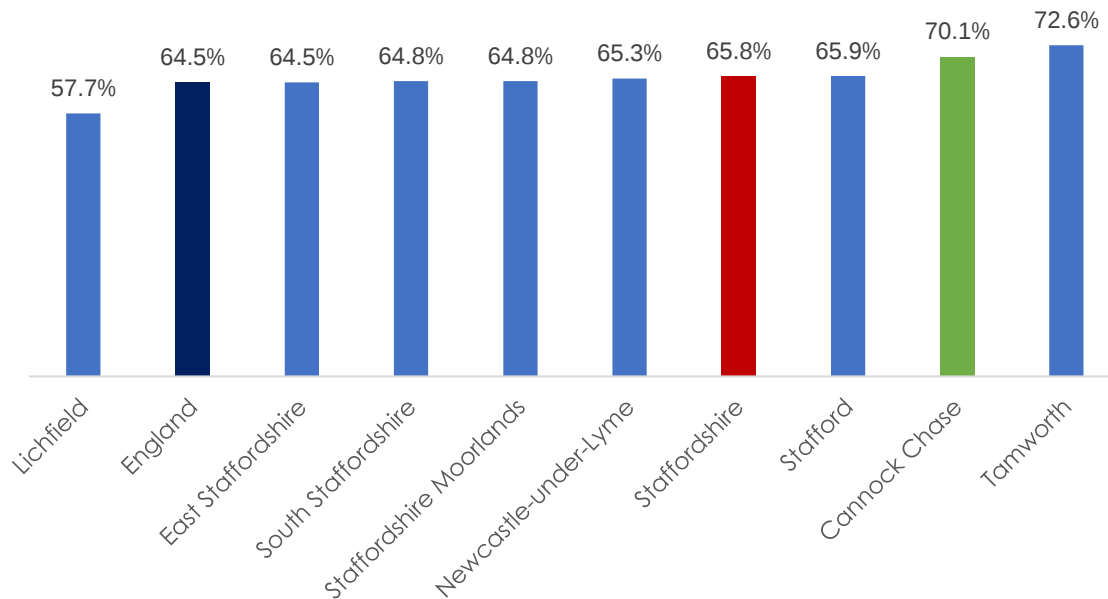


Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021 via [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](https://nomis.statistics.gov.uk/)

Adult Obesity

Obesity is a contributing factor towards poor health outcomes and premature mortality. Cannock Chase had the second highest overweight (including obesity) prevalence in adults (aged 18+) across Staffordshire in 2023/2024 at 70.1%. This was above both the county (65.8%) and national (64.5%) averages.

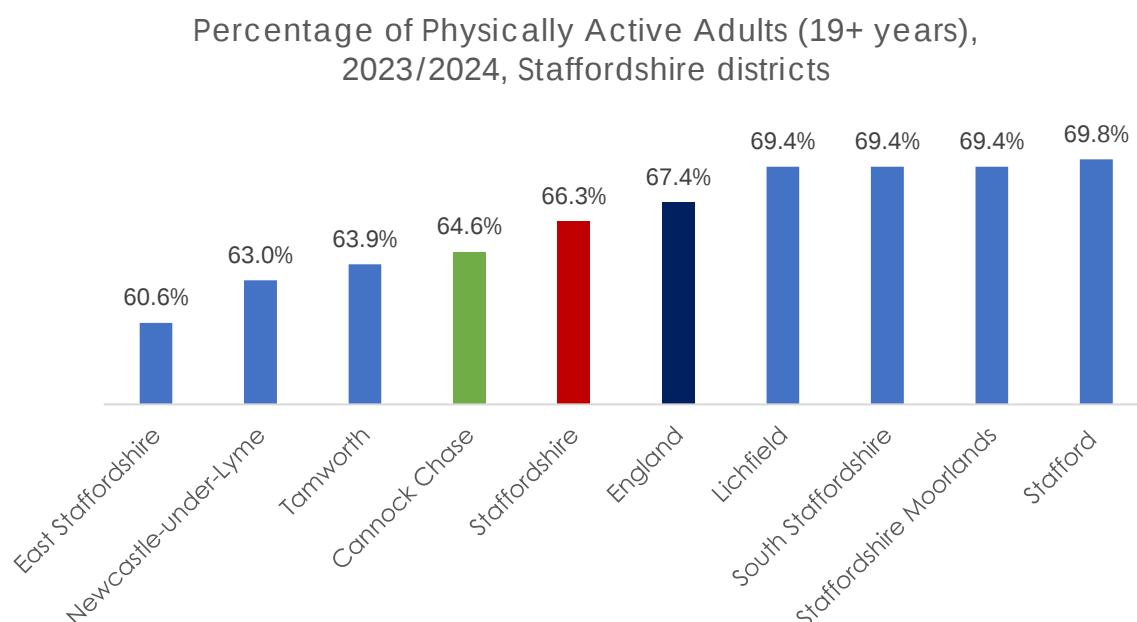
Overweight (Including Obesity) Prevalence in Adults (18+),
using adjusted self-reported height and weight, 2023/2024,
Staffordshire districts



Source: OHID, based on Sport England data Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026]

Physical Activity

Regular physical activity is associated with better health outcomes. The proportion of physically active adults (aged 19+) doing at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week in Cannock Chase during 2023/2024 was 64.6%, around the mid-range across the Staffordshire districts.



Source: OHID, based on Sport England data, Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026]

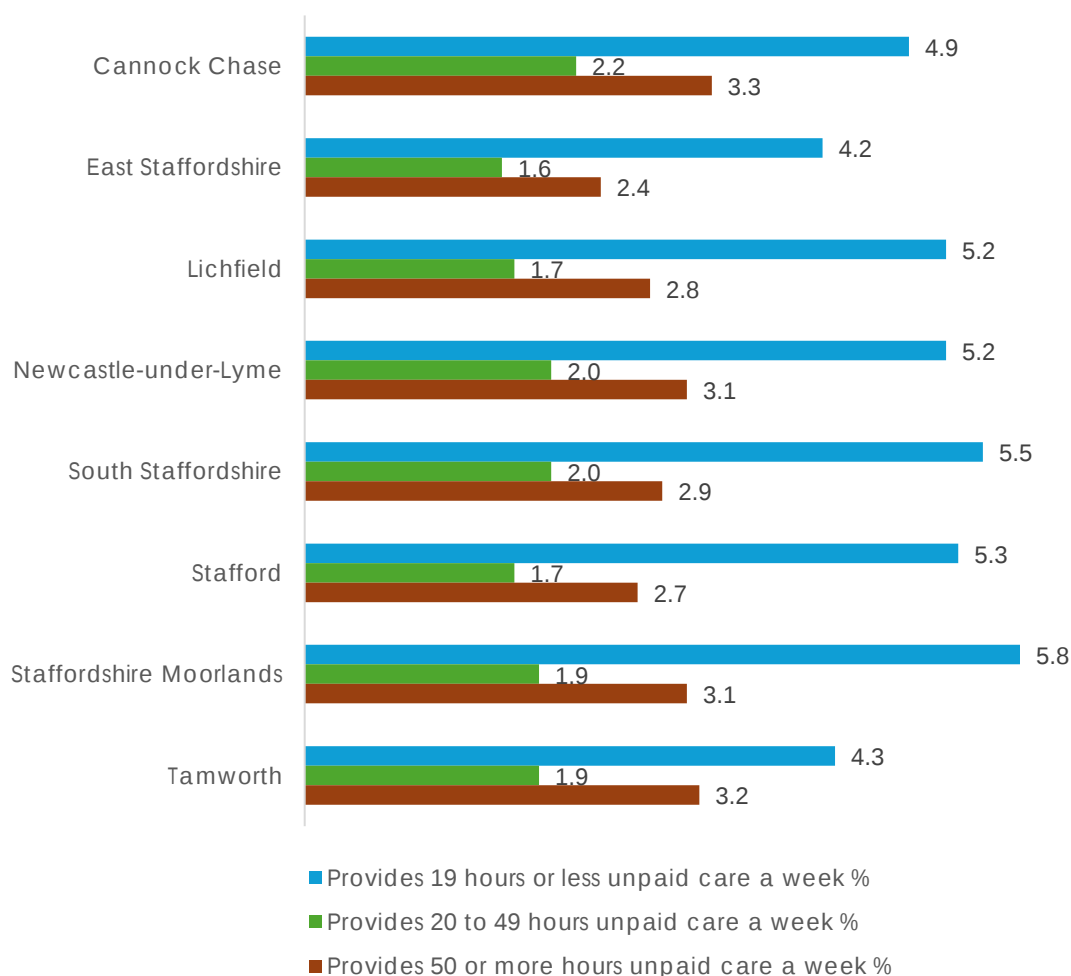
Cannock Chase Can is a district-wide wellbeing programme led by Cannock Chase Council and built around a free mobile app that helps residents make small, sustainable lifestyle changes to support physical, mental, social, and environmental wellbeing. It provides personalised wellbeing profiles, simple challenges, and practical tips across themes such as eating well, moving more, sleeping better, connecting with others, and enjoying local green spaces.

As of April 2026, there were 2,973 registered users of the Cannock Chase Can App with registered users across each of the district's 12 wards. Total wellness scores across the different themes indicate that sleep well, budget well, eat well, connect well and manage well were the highest priorities for users.

Unpaid Care

Cannock Chase had the largest proportion of residents providing higher amounts of unpaid care (more than 20 hours per week) across Staffordshire at the time of Census 2021. Around 3.3% of residents in the district provided 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week.

Census 2021: Percentage Proportion Residents aged 5 and over providing Unpaid Care per week, Staffordshire districts



Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021 via [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Census 2021 data indicates that the Rugeley North & Etching Hill Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) had the highest proportion of residents providing 19 hours or less unpaid care per week (5.9%). Cannock North MSOA had the highest proportion of residents providing unpaid care of between 20 and 49 hours per week (2.9%) and 50+ hours per week (4.9%).

Depression

The estimated prevalence of depression in Cannock Chase was 18% in 2024/2025 based on data for GP patients aged 18 and over diagnosed with depression (NHS Digital Data) which was above the England average (14.3%). The estimated prevalence of depression was spread disproportionately across the district, ranging from 20.5% in Cannock North MSOA to 15.3% in Norton Canes MSOA.¹⁶

¹⁶ House of Commons Library, Constituency Data: Health Conditions (April 2026), GP patients aged 18 and over diagnosed with depression, sourced from NHS Digital Data, accessed April 2026 [Constituency data: health conditions](#)

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

The rate of overall crime in Cannock Chase in 2024/2025 was 74 per 1,000 population - below the national (England & Wales) average (87.2). Incidents of reported Anti-social Behaviour were also below the national average of 16.8 at a rate of 9.4 incidents per 1,000 for the year 2023/2024.

Cannock Chase is divided into 8 neighbourhoods within the Staffordshire force area with Police teams for Brereton Ravenhill and Hagley, Cannock East and North, Cannock South and West, Chase Rural, Etching Hill and The Heath, Hednesford, Norton Canes and Rawnsley. Statistics from Staffordshire Police via Police.UK provide an overview of the most commonly reported crimes across these different localities in January 2026:

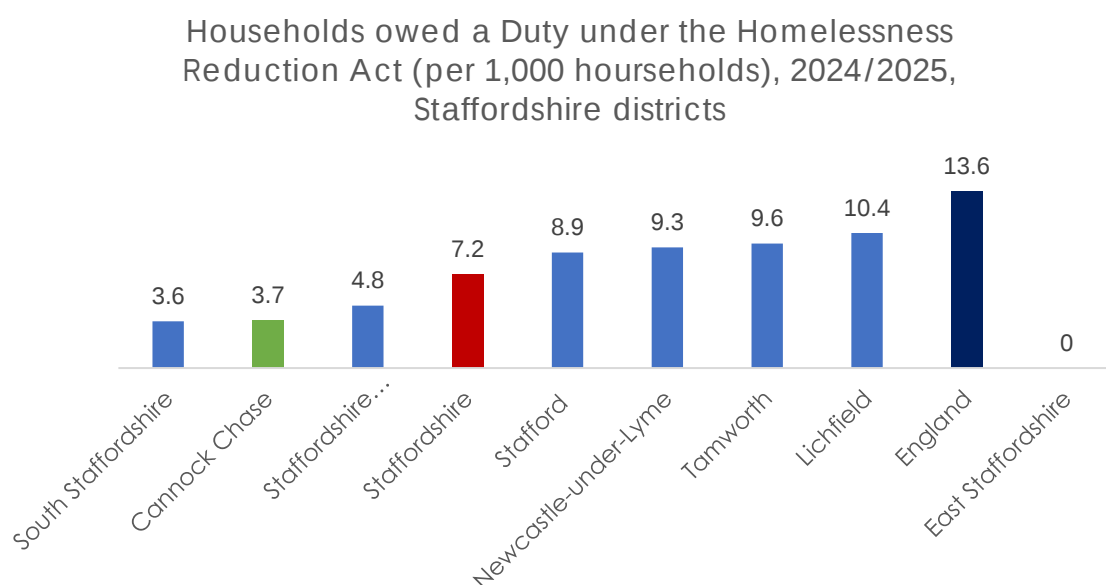
Areas and Most Commonly Reported Crimes, Jan 2026	Violence and Sexual Offences	Other Theft	Public Order	Anti-social Behaviour	Drugs	Criminal Damage and Arson	Shoplifting	Vehicle Crime
Brereton Ravenhill and Hagley	68	11	11				11	
Cannock East and North	72		8	8	10			
Cannock South and West	72		16	41			32	
Chase Rural	22		4	6		3		
Etching Hill and The Heath	12	2				5		3
Hednesford	35		10	17		9		
Norton Canes	32	4		4			4	
Rawnsley	12	2				3		3

Source: [Cannock Chase | Staffordshire Police](#)

Violence and Sexual Offences were the most commonly reported crimes across all 8 policing areas in Cannock Chase with incidents of reported Anti-social Behaviour and Shoplifting most common in the district's urban town centre areas.

Homelessness

Homelessness is regarded as a social determinant of health and is closely linked to poor health and social outcomes for those affected. The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) introduced new prevention and relief duties to ensure that more households either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless were provided with support from local housing authorities.¹⁷ Data for 2024/2025 indicates that Cannock Chase had the third lowest rate per 1,000 households across Staffordshire for households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act. The district rate for 2024/2025 saw a considerable decrease on figures for the previous year, falling from 6.1% in 2023/2024 to 3.7% in 2024/2025.



Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026]. Please note that there is no data for East Staffordshire (value suppressed due to incompleteness of source data).

A significant proportion of households at risk of homelessness in Cannock Chase, as well as single-person homeless applicants, present with a support need related to physical and mental health issues. Data indicates that this is a higher proportion than the regional average.¹⁸

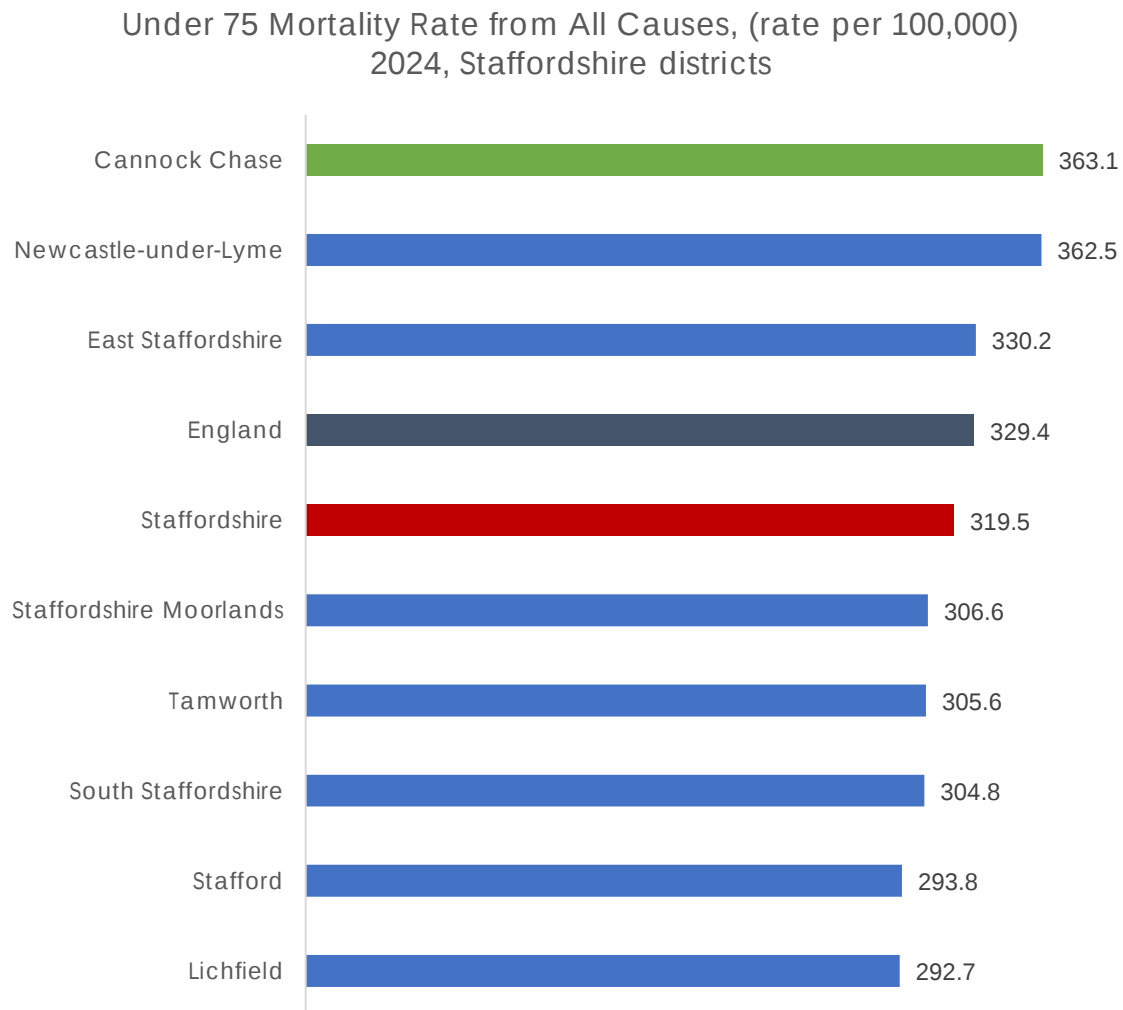
Premature Mortality

It is evident that a range of health inequalities contribute to lower life expectancy in Cannock Chase. The under 75 mortality rate from all causes in

¹⁷ The Impact of Homelessness on Health, LGA 2017, <https://www.local.gov.uk/impact-health-homelessness-guide-local-authorities>; Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026]

¹⁸ HCLIC Data courtesy of Cannock Chase Council, April 2026. Please note there are some quality considerations around this data which should be interpreted as indicative of trends only.

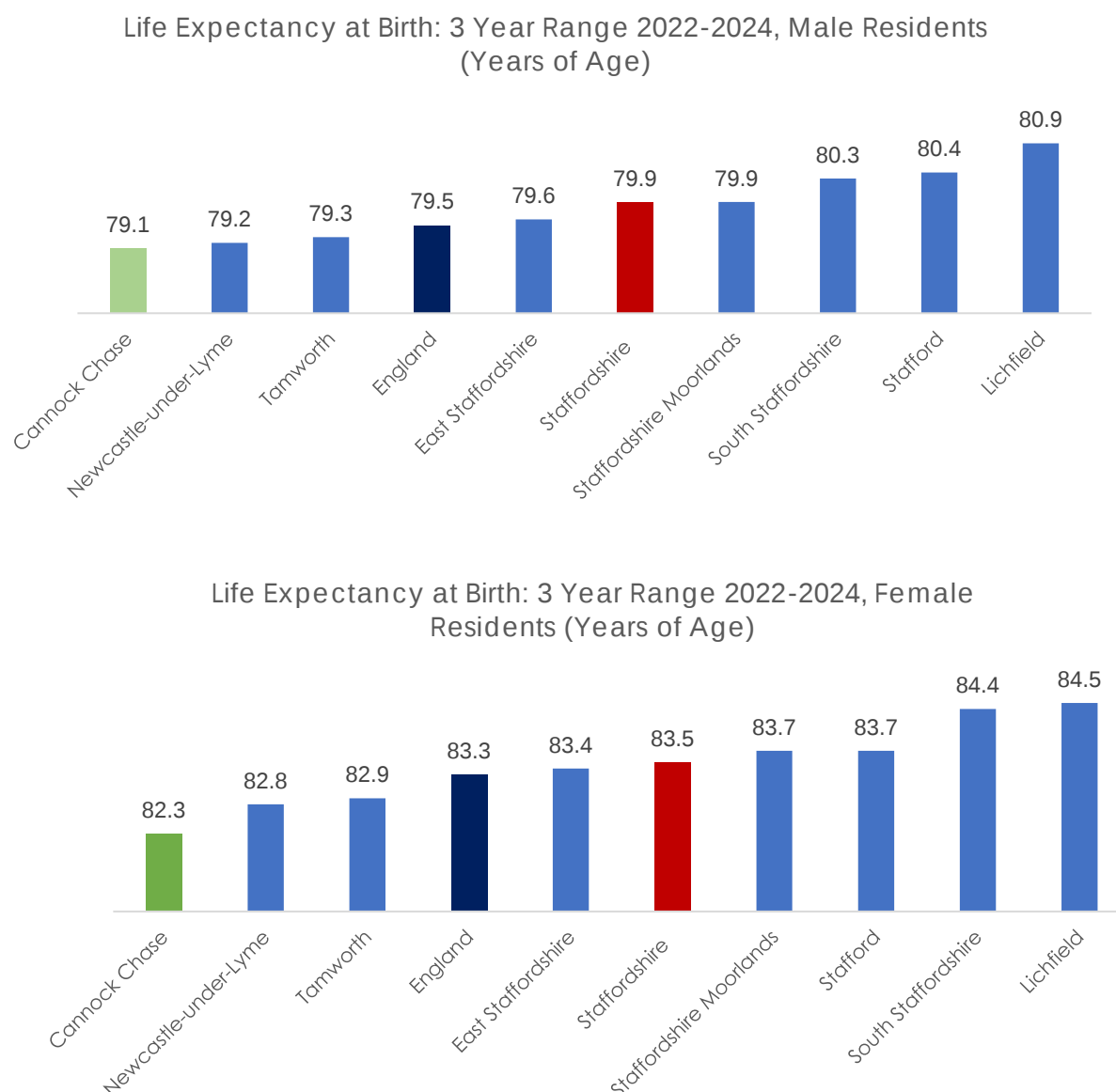
Cannock Chase during 2024 was the highest in Staffordshire and above the national average.



Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026].

Life Expectancy at Birth

Men and women living in Cannock Chase had the lowest life expectancy at birth across Staffordshire during the period 2022-2024. Life expectancy in the district was below county and national averages.



Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026].

There is inequality in life expectancy across the district with a gap of around 8 years in life expectancy estimated between people living in the most and least deprived areas of Cannock Chase.¹⁹

¹⁹ OHID, based on Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Office for National Statistics data. Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2026
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2026. [accessed April 2026].

Data Sources and Disclaimer:

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The statistical information included in this document was current at the time of writing. However, due to the frequently changing nature of statistical information, this document is not intended to serve as a definitive position statement for the district, particularly as some data will have been revised since publication. Cannock Chase Council, while believing the information in this document to be correct at the time of publication, does not guarantee its accuracy nor does the Council accept any liability for any direct or indirect loss or damage or other consequences, however arising from the use of such information supplied.

Chase Community Partnership - Community Wellbeing Implementation Plan - 2026-28

Ref	Activities	When	Objective	Ongoing actions and example work programmes
1. Workstream 1 - People				
1.1	Ensuring range of accessible engagement opportunities are available to gain meaningful participation from our residents.	Year 1	ALL	- Review relevant data to understand local needs and assets that may contribute to delivery of Wellbeing and Community Safety outcomes
1.2	Fostering a sense of belonging and pride in our communities	Q2-3 26/27	ALL	- Co-ordination and administration of targeted VCSE Micro-grants.
1.3	Encouraging intergenerational connections and social cohesion to ensure that all ages are supported and valued.	Q1-2 26/27	1,2,3	- Developing and producing heritage Podcast series, linking collections to the modern day - Developing opportunities during the National Year of Reading to tackle low levels of literacy in the district - Supporting the SPACE scheme
1.4	Strengthening local leadership by building community capacity and encouraging volunteering and participation.	Year 1	1,2,3	- Volunteering opportunities within the Chase Fit programme - Expand and support voluntary art groups - Expand the Bleed Kits programme - Delivery of Coaching the Park
1.5	Developing range of prevention and early intervention activities to promote healthy lifestyles	Ongoing	ALL	
1.6	Further developing and enhancing the Cannock Chase Can branding and resource into a trusted, district-level information, advice and guidance directory	Year 1	1,2,3,4	- Developing a suite of written information for public and practitioners on key community safety and wellbeing topics. - Regularly review the impact of Cannock Chase Can to ensure it reaches the right people at the right time.
1.7	Creating a Communication Plan and campaigns calendar to promote key community safety and wellbeing messaging to the community.	Q2 26/27	ALL	- Health Literacy Project.

Objectives: 1= Embedding wellbeing 2= Strengthening partnerships 3= Community empowerment 4= Improving information and support 5= Maximising assets and opportunities
6= Creating optimal environments

Ref	Activities	When	Objective	Ongoing actions and example work programmes
2. Workstream 2 - Partnerships				
2.1	Ensuring that effective partnerships are in place and maintained to support community safety and the wellbeing of our residents	Ongoing	1,2,5	- Develop a 'Wellbeing' working group to embed the 'health in all' approach across all Council functions, create networking opportunities and disseminate best practice - Support the Vulnerability Hub and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for the district, seeking opportunities for de-escalating risk and harm to the most vulnerable residents. - Co-ordination of the White Ribbon campaign to increase awareness of VAWG and attitudinal change. - Develop a strategic partnership for culture and heritage - Develop opportunities for funding through the cultural compact partnership - Continue to develop the Teachers Network to act as a platform to embed our heritage collection within into the curriculum.
2.2	Engaging and influencing commissioning and delivery of local services that support community safety initiatives and wellbeing of our residents	Q3-4 26/27	1,2,5	- Explore opportunities for joint commissioning with partners
2.3	Strengthening partnerships with VCSE local organisations, community groups, Town and Parish Councils and our residents to generate new ideas and opportunities	Year 1 and 2	1,2,3,5	- Delivery of LIF project with SuS and ICB - Continue to deliver programmes such as the Security grants, supporting victims of domestic abuse and cuckooing with obtaining additional home security solutions.
2.4	Explore opportunities for the partnership workforce to implement further joint working, collaboration and service integration	Year 2	1,2,5	- Development of multi-agency training and refreshers to strengthen the effectiveness of the collective partnership workforce.
2.5	Using the collective partnership resources most appropriately and working to identify and reduce duplication.	Q4 26/27	1,2,5	- Review activity and resources across the partnership to understand the existing activities being delivered.

Objectives: 1= Embedding wellbeing 2= Strengthening partnerships 3= Community empowerment 4= Improving information and support 5= Maximising assets and opportunities
6= Creating optimal environments

Ref	Activities	When	Objective	Ongoing actions and example work programmes
3. Workstream 3 - Places				
3.1	Being aspirational in the way we improve places e.g. empty homes, planning, licensing, food hygiene inspections, waste collection, trading standards, patrols.	Ongoing	1,2,5,6	- Encourage the development and build of suitable accommodation for the population including affordable homes and senior living facilities
3.2	Enable the community to deliver Pride in Place initiatives, empowering them to lead and shape visible improvements in their neighbourhoods			- Being led by the community and where needed, support opportunities for community engagement, ensuring that residents are empowered to access conversations and are consulted meaningfully so they are able to shape their Pride in Place work
3.3	Promoting active lifestyles and access to nature and open spaces, recognising the role of the local environment in improving wellbeing.	Year 1	1,3,5,6	- Further develop and expand the offerings of the ChaseFit programme, looking at growing into new areas across the district in which these activities can be offered. - Living Histories Project.
3.4	Responding to areas of concern in local community	Ongoing	ALL	- Effective management of Public Spaces Protection Order
3.5	Developing more accessible and safer routes for walking, cycling and other outdoor recreation.	Q2 26/27	1,2,3,5	- Review data to support the delivery of targeted support within key areas across the district where barriers to wellbeing is high including: Etching Hill & Heath, Hednesford and Pye Green and Chadsmoor Wards
3.6	Promoting the provision of suitable accommodation, services, information and advice to prevent and reduce homelessness.	Ongoing	1,2,4,5	- Promote availability of supported accommodation and housing related support to the partnership to contribute to the prevention and reduction of homelessness.

Objectives: 1= Embedding wellbeing 2= Strengthening partnerships 3= Community empowerment 4= Improving information and support 5= Maximising assets and opportunities
6= Creating optimal environments

Revenues and Benefits Collection Report - Quarter 4 2025/26

Committee:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	16 July 2026
Report of:	Deputy Chief Executive-Resources
Portfolio:	Resources and Corporate Services

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the performance of the Revenues and Benefits Service as regards:
- The collection of Council Tax during the 2025-2026 financial year.
 - The collection of Business Rates during the 2025-2026 financial year.
 - The recovery of overpaid Housing Benefit during the 2025-2026 financial year.
- 1.2 To seek approval to the write off of the arrears listed in the **CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX**.

2 Reasons for Appendix being 'Not for Publication'

- 2.1 In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the appendix to this report is considered 'not for publication' under the following categories of exemption:
- Exempt Paragraph 1 – Information relating to any individual.
 - Exempt Paragraph 2 – Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
 - Exempt Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council).

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That the information regarding collections be noted.
- 3.2 That the arrears listed in the **CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX** be written off.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.3 Efficient collection of the Council's revenues is of major importance to the funding of Council services and those provided by our preceptors.
- 3.4 Whilst our collection rates are traditionally good, regrettably not all of the monies owed to the Council can be collected and this report contains a recommendation to write off bad debts which cannot be recovered.

4 Key Issues

- 4.1 Council Tax due for the 2025/2026-year amounts to £70.1M of which some **96.9%** was collected by the 31 March.
- 4.2 Business Rates due for the current year amounts to £40M of which some **98.6%** was collected by the end of March.

5 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6 Report Detail

6.1 Council Tax

- 6.1.1 Council Tax is collected on behalf of the District Council, Parish Councils and our Major Preceptors (Staffordshire County Council and Commissioner for Police, Crime, Fire and Rescue). The effect of the Collection fund arrangements means that Cannock Chase Council retains around 11% of the council tax collected.
- 6.1.2 Council Tax due for the current year amounts to £70.1M and we have collected 96.9% to 31 March. Last year's collection figure was 97.0% for the same period. The marginal dip in performance seems to be consistent with local and national trends.
- 6.1.2 Whilst trying to maintain this rate in the coming year, the team also increased its efforts to recover older years' arrears owed to the Council. This will have had some impact on some residents' ability to pay their 2025-26 bill.
- 6.1.3 In accordance with the Council's approved policies, all reasonable and lawful attempts are made to recover all amounts due. In the first instance this involves the issue of bills, reminders and final notices, followed by Summonses in the Magistrates Court where the warning notices are not effective. At all stages of this process, debtors are encouraged to engage in voluntary arrangements to repay their arrears, to prevent the need for formal action.

Where necessary and when Liability Orders are granted by Magistrates, the Council uses its powers to make deductions from earnings and benefits of debtors, where it can, and instructs Enforcement Agents where such deductions are not possible or appropriate.

In the most severe cases and for debts exceeding £5,000, the Council will consider personal bankruptcy action against individuals.

- 6.1.4 The recovery powers available to the Council are considerable but not completely infallible. Some of the limitations which lead to debts being written off are described below.
- 6.1.5 Statutory safeguards such as Debt Relief Orders, Individual's Voluntary Arrangements exist to protect debtors suffering hardship, to attempt to the expensive, stressful and sometimes ineffective process of personal bankruptcy. Where a debt is included in such an instrument, or when a debtor is bankrupt, our ordinary recovery powers cannot be used.

- 6.1.6 For any of our powers to be effective we need to know the whereabouts of a debtor, and this is not always the case. Where debtors abscond, we will use all reasonable endeavours to trace them and are often successful in doing so. Unfortunately, on occasions this is not so, and we must submit a debt for write off.

Our trace procedures include;

- Checking our internal Council systems and following any information which may help us to trace the debtor.
- Use of credit reference agency data.
- Trace and collect facilities offered by our Enforcement Agencies
- Visits to the last known address by the Council's Property Inspector and use of external tracing agents.

Unfortunately, legislation does not currently permit access to DWP or HMRC records to trace Council Tax debtors or their employers, though a Cabinet Office project is currently reviewing this. The government recently announced that a third pilot project will begin soon, to explore how best to share information between HMRC and local authorities. We will follow this keenly in order to utilise this feature at the first available opportunity.

Data protection legislation allows us to receive information as to a debtor's whereabouts, but we cannot disclose information to other creditors. Reciprocal arrangements with utility companies and similar are not therefore workable.

6.2 Business Rates

- 6.2.1 Business rates income forms a part of the Council's core funding, with around 29% of receipts being retained by this Council. The remainder is collected on behalf of Central Government and our major preceptors.
- 6.2.2 Business Rates due for the current year amounts to £40M of which some **98.6%** was collected by the 31 March. This compares to 98.3% collected in the same period last year.
- 6.2.3 This is a very pleasing result, particularly as many retail, hospitality and leisure establishments faced increased bills as the government relief to these premises has reduced from 75% last year to 40% this year. The team also increased our efforts to recover older debts, which may impact on some businesses' ability to pay their current charges.
- 6.2.4 The recovery powers available to us are again contained in the Council's approved policies and are used in full. Those powers and our procedures are similar to the council tax powers described above, with the exception that deduction from individuals' benefits and earnings are not permissible, even if the debtor is an individual.
- 6.2.5 Where rates are owed by an individual, similar safeguards exist for the debtors and trace facilities are used by the Council for absconding debtors, as described above.

- 6.2.6 Additionally, in the case of business rates, as has been reported to Cabinet previously, our collection efforts are sometimes frustrated by weaknesses in legislation. Rates are due from the occupiers rather than the owners of property and where the occupier is a company, we can only recover from that company. Some proprietors will strip a company of its assets or dissolve the company before we have had an opportunity to implement our recovery procedures. A new company is then formed in a similar style, to trade from the same premises.

Central Government has previously undertaken to review the loopholes that exist in rating and company legislation, though no changes have yet been received. Your officers continue to actively monitor these issues.

6.3 Housing Benefit Overpayments

- 6.3.1 The Council manages the Housing Benefit scheme on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions, who fund the cost of benefits paid to claimants.
- 6.3.2 Sometimes a claimant will be paid too much Housing Benefit, for example when the Council does not become aware of a change of circumstances until after the claimant has been paid the benefit. This is called an Overpayment of Housing Benefit. The Council is expected to recover these overpayments from the claimant in all but a few limited circumstances. DWP will fund only 40% of benefit which is overpaid as a result of claimant error or fraud.
- 6.3.3 Where an overpayment occurs as a result of a local authority error, DWP will provide 100% funding provided our error rate remains below a threshold of 0.48% of benefit paid, as it has routinely done for many years.
- 6.3.4 Recovery of overpaid Housing Benefit continues to progress well, with some £291K being collected in the financial year. This income is received into the General Fund, in addition to the Government subsidy and is not shared with preceptors.
- 6.3.5 1 Irrecoverable Housing Benefit overpayment debt of £37,380.41 is listed in the confidential appendix to this report.

7 Implications

7.1 Financial

Under the Business Rates Retention Scheme, business rates write offs will no longer be offset against the National Non-Domestic Rating Pool. Write offs will now form part of the costs of collection of business rates.

Council Tax write offs are losses to the Collection Fund and, as such, form part of the cost of collection incurred by this Council. There are no Council Tax write-offs on this report.

The amounts being recommended are well below the value of the bad debt provision, which the Council includes within its accounts in expectation that some amounts owed will not be paid and cannot be recovered.

The cost of collecting the debts has been considered as part of the decision to put them forward for write off. If further information does come forward about the

whereabouts of any of the individual debtors, the Council will pursue recovery action.

Cabinet is asked to write off the debts as they are considered to be irrecoverable for the reasons given in the appendices. The debts remain legally due to the Council and should the circumstances causing the write off in any particular case, subsequently change, recovery action may be recommenced.

7.2 Legal

Cabinet are asked to write off the debts as they are considered to be irrecoverable for the reasons given in the appendices. The debts remain legally due to the Council and should the circumstances causing the write off in any particular case, subsequently change, recovery action may be recommenced.

7.3 Human Resources

None.

7.4 Risk Management

The risk issues contained in this report are not strategic and therefore should not be included in the Strategic Risk Register.

7.5 Equalities and Diversity

None.

7.6 Health

None.

7.7 Climate Change

None.

8 Appendices

Appendix 1: Housing Benefit Overpayment write offs over £10,000

9 Background Papers

None.

10 Previous Consideration

None.

Contact Officer: Rob Wolfe

Telephone Number: 01543 464 397

Report Track: Cabinet: 16/07/26

Key Decision: No