



Borough of Tamworth

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**INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND GROWTH  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

10 February 2025

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee will be held in **Town Hall, Market Street, Tamworth on Tuesday, 18th February, 2025 at 6.00 pm.** Members of the Committee are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. C. V.'.

Chief Executive

**A G E N D A**

**NON CONFIDENTIAL**

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 8)**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**

*To receive any declarations of Members' interests (personal and/or personal and prejudicial) in any matters which are to be considered at this meeting.*

*When Members are declaring a personal interest or personal and prejudicial interest in respect of which they have dispensation, they should specify the nature of such interest. Members should leave the room if they have a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of which they do not have a dispensation.*

**4 Update from the Chair**

*To receive an update from the Chair*

**5 Responses to Reports of the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Committee**

*Update on responses received to Reports of the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Committee:*

**6 Improving Water Quality Within Tamworth Rivers (Pages 9 - 14)**

**7 Consideration of Matters referred to the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Committee from Cabinet or Council**

*(Discussion item)*

**8 Working Group Updates**

*To receive updates from any Working Groups*

**9 Forward Plan**

*(Discussion item – link to Forward Plan is attached)*

[Browse plans - Cabinet, 2024 :: Tamworth Borough Council](#)

**10 Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee Work Plan (Pages 15 - 20)**

*(Discussion item – to review the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Work Plan)*

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**Access arrangements**

*If you have any particular access requirements when attending the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on 01827 709267 or e-mail [democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk](mailto:democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk). We can then endeavour to ensure that any particular requirements you may have are catered for.*

### **Filming of Meetings**

*The public part of this meeting may be filmed and broadcast. Please refer to the Council's Protocol on Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council meetings which can be found [here](#) for further information.*

*If a member of the public is particularly concerned about accidental filming, please contact a member of Democratic Services before selecting a seat*

### **FAQs**

*For further information about the Council's Committee arrangements please see the FAQ page [here](#)*

To Councillors: M Couchman, L Wood, C Adams, M Bailey, L Clarke, M Clarke, J Oates, B Price and N Statham

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND  
GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 29th JANUARY 2025**

PRESENT: Councillor M Couchman (Chair), Councillors L Wood, C Adams, L Clarke, M Clarke, J Oates, B Price and N Statham

CABINET: Councillor Ben Clarke

The following officers were present: Richard Powell (Planning Policy and Delivery Team Leader) and Leanne Costello (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer)

**79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bailey.

**80 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were approved as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor L Wood and seconded by Councillor N Statham)*

**81 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**82 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair advised the Committee that the Tamworth Housing & Supported Housing Strategy 2025-2030 has been delayed which was due at the meeting had been delayed and would come at a later date.

**83 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH COMMITTEE**

The Chair update the Committee that they attended Cabinet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January where they presented the Committees recommendation for the Climate Change

Update concerning solar panels, and that this was approved alongside the recommendations in the report.

#### **84 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH COMMITTEE FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL**

There were none.

#### **85 WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

There were no updates however the Chair gave an update that the lorry issue around Dunstall park has gone away but that this has move to Lichfield Road Industrial Estate.

Cllr Price confirmed that a meeting would take place before the next meeting of the committee.

#### **86 REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

The Chair welcomed the Planning Policy Team Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and Planning to introduce the report to seek committee endorsement of the recommendations to be presented to Cabinet at the 20th February 2025 meeting in relation to the publication of the revised Local Development Scheme.

The Portfolio Holder provided the committee with a summary of the report.

The committee made the following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

1. What are the main differences between the old and the new versions of the National Planning policy framework (NPPF)?  
The main changes relate to housing need. The new standard method used to calculate our annual housing need has increased significantly from 123 to 445. There are also changes around the rules on greenbelt.  
The Committee asked how realistic it would be to achieve this target of the housing need?  
The Officer confirmed that this would be difficult to achieve, an issue being limited space within the borough
2. There are a number of local development documents that sit aside the plan, but there does not seem to be anything relating to houses of multiple occupancy, the majority of which appear to be in Spital, Castle and Wilnecote wards where a number of small properties within the borough appear to be being converted and that this could change the character/feel of an area. Could a HMO policy be developed to look at limiting streets that could be developed on?  
The officer confirmed that this could be look at as part of the housing section of the plan.

3. Does Staffordshire County Council (SCC) contribute towards Highways?  
It was confirmed that SCC's sustainability team would be a consultee on developments and are developing a sustainable transport strategy is being developed. SCC would provide more advice when specific developments are identified.
4. Clarification around the development of infrastructure when housing developments are proposed.  
It was confirmed that this depended on the size of the development. The usual process was to use Section 106 legal agreements for infrastructure outside of the boundary of the development. For larger developments road can be put in internally to an adoptable standard.
5. The reports shows the percentage of time being used to the develop the plan including the use of a temporary officer – was this sufficient?  
It was confirmed that this was an identified risk and that they are a small team, but that there was an option to use consultants (consultants are already used for the evidence-based work). The Officer and Portfolio Holder confirmed that they were having regular catch ups about progress.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	that the Committee:
<b>1.</b>	Endorsed the recommendation to be presented to Cabinet that the updated Local Development Scheme in Appendix A be approved for publication.
	<i>(Moved by Councillor L Wood and seconded by Councillor N Statham)</i>
<b>2.</b>	Endorsed the recommendation to be presented to Cabinet that authority is delegated to the Planning Policy and Delivery Team Leader to make any minor typographical amendments to the documents before or after publication.
	<i>(Moved by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor C Adams)</i>
	The Committee moved an extra stand alone recommendation to be presented to Cabinet:
<b>3</b>	To Develop a Policy for Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's)
	<i>(Moved by Councillor M Couchman and seconded by Councillor B Price)</i>

## 87 FORWARD PLAN

There were no items identified from the forward plan.

## 88 INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Chair confirmed that the next meeting in February was a single item agenda meeting for the matter to look at the matter of Improving Water Quality within the Boroughs rivers where there are a number of external partners attending.

The next meeting was on the 5<sup>th</sup> March where they would receive a Community Safety Partnership Update, and the Decant Policy. The Nature Recovery Declaration and Joint Waste update but will ask for these to be reports only with no officer attendance as we also have the.

The Committee considered two work planning proposal submitted for consideration –

- 1) Road Infrastructure within Tamworth  
The Committee agreed to add this to the work plan  
*(Moved by Councillor L Wood and seconded by Councillor N Statham)*
- 2) Lightspeed Broadband  
It was highlighted that the MP was meeting with Lightspeed Broadband in the following week and that Cllr N Statham would provide an update at the next meeting when the Committee would consider.

The Chair closed the meeting at 6:33pm.

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Chair



**Briefing Note for Infrastructure, Safety and Growth  
Scrutiny Committee**

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Improving Water Quality within Rivers in Tamworth**

**Exempt Information**

None

**Purpose of note**

To provide the Committee with the background to the agenda item.

**Recommendations**

The infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:

1. Identify any recommendations for Cabinet following Scrutiny of this item.

**Background**

The below motion was submitted to Full Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 as below –

*According to a map produced by The Rivers Trust using the latest available public data, there has been hundreds of hours of raw sewage discharge in Tamworth during 2021.*

*These discharges are across multiple sites in the borough, and we are sure that residents will be shocked to find raw sewage is being dumped in local rivers in the 21st century. Residents should have access to clean rivers and open water and we very much support the steps the government is taking towards a 'polluter pays' principle when it comes to tackling river pollution.*

A referral was made to the Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee following to:

ask scrutiny to look into this matter and engage with local partners, environmental bodies and utility providers to develop a broader approach to improving water quality in rivers in Tamworth;

The Current Chair of the Committee proposed an item be added to the agenda (see Appendix 2) on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 which was agreed.

As a result this meeting has been arranged to bring key partners together to discuss the issue. Representatives from Severn Trent, The Environment Agency, Staffordshire County Council and Trent Rivers Trust have agreed to attend.

**Implications**

This note is for information only and there are no implications at this stage however if any recommendations were made to Cabinet around projects to improve the water quality these would need to be considered.

**Report Author:** Leanne Costello  
**Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer**



**Appendix**

- 1. Matters referred to Scrutiny**
- 2. Scrutiny Work Planning Proposal Form**

## Matters referred to Scrutiny from Cabinet or Council

### Exempt Information

None.

### Executive Summary

The following Committee has referred the following matter to Scrutiny:

Committee	Matter referred	Scrutiny Committee
Council (28.02.23)	Improving Water Quality Within Rivers in Tamworth	Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny

### Exempt Information

None.

### Purpose

To follow up on the resolutions made by Full Council as below –

### Background

The following Motion was submitted for consideration at Full Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023:

According to a map produced by The Rivers Trust using the latest available public data, there has been hundreds of hours of raw sewage discharge in Tamworth during 2021.

These discharges are across multiple sites in the borough, and we are sure that residents will be shocked to find raw sewage is being dumped in local rivers in the 21st century. Residents should have access to clean rivers and open water and we very much support the steps the government is taking towards a ‘polluter pays’ principle when it comes to tackling river pollution.

### It was resolved that Council

1. Agreed to call on Severn Trent Water to undertake urgent action to prevent further raw sewage discharge into our local rivers in the short, medium and long term.
2. ask scrutiny to look into this matter and engage with local partners, environmental bodies and utility providers to develop a broader approach to improving water quality in rivers in Tamworth; and
3. support the Government’s new initiative to use money from fines for water pollution to benefit the nature environment and call for some of this to be used to improve Tamworth's environment. Letter to the relevant minister would seem appropriate?

## **Executive Summary**

The Rivers Trust are the umbrella organisation for 65 member Rivers Trusts across Britain, northern Ireland and Ireland.

The Trust release The State of our Rivers Report 2024 which can be viewed here –

[State of our Rivers Report 2024 | The Rivers Trust](#)

Based on data from 2022 Sewage map, 0% of England's Rivers are classed as having a good or high overall health status.

23% are classed as in poor or bad overall status.

77% are classed as moderate.

85 % of river stretches fall below good ecological standards – only 15 % achieve good or above ecological health status.

62% achieve a moderate status

With 23% falling into either poor or bad status.

The Trent Rivers Trust work within the Trent catchment to ensure that rivers are valued by everyone and provides information on local rivers

[A big stink: Sewage in the Trent and tributaries - Trent Rivers Trust](#)

## **Options Considered**

Information for Committee only at this stage to consider how to proceed following the referral from Full Council

## Scrutiny Work Planning Proposal Form (for inclusion on the workplan)

<b>Title of proposed Scrutiny Item</b>	<u>IMPROVING WATER QUALITY WITHIN RIVERS IN TAMWORTH</u>
<b>Scrutiny Committee making the request:</b>	Infrastructure, Safety & Growth Scrutiny
<b>Date the Committee agreed to add the item to the Workplan:</b>	21st March 2024
<b>Brief Background (Why has this come to Scrutiny attention? (egs Forward Plan/ Complaints/petition, etc):</b>	Referred to Scrutiny following a motion at Full Council and then agreed by the Committee to add to the workplan (attached)
<b>Which Corporate Priority will this scrutiny work help the authority achieve? <a href="#">CORPORATE PLAN 2022-2025   Tamworth Borough Council</a></b>	The Environment
<b>Purpose and scope of the Item (Why do you want to undertake this review? What detail do you want this work to cover?):</b>	It was resolved that Council 1. Agreed to call on Severn Trent Water to undertake urgent action to prevent further raw sewage discharge into our local rivers in the short, medium and long term. 2. <b>ask scrutiny to look into this matter and engage with local partners, environmental bodies and utility providers to develop a broader approach to improving water quality in rivers in Tamworth;</b> and 3. support the Government's new initiative to use money from fines for water pollution to benefit the nature environment and call for some of this to be used to improve Tamworth's environment.
<b>Method of Scrutiny: (Agenda Item/single issue meeting/short scrutiny review See notes):</b>	Agenda Item
<b>Proposed meeting date for Scrutiny (where applicable):</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Intended Outcomes:</b>	To get advice from partners as to how the authority can support the approach to improving water quality within rivers in Tamworth
<b>Information requested for inclusion in the Item research and deadlines:</b>	Details of sewage discharges within local rivers Ideas on how the Council can develop to improving the water quality within the borough
<b>Who are the stakeholders/potential invitees? (eg.officers/Cabinet Members/Voluntary Sector/Public etc)</b>	Trents Rivers Trust Severn Trent Officers Portfolio Holder Residents of Tamworth

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**Tamworth Borough Council**  
**Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Work Plan**  
**2024 - 2025**

To provide effective scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities and external providers in securing the primary outcome of creating a safe and sustaining thriving local economy and making Tamworth a more aspirational and competitive place to do business, with a focus on:-

- Infrastructure
- Education
- Employment/Inward Investment
- Town Centre
- Open Space and Play
- Public Space Protection Orders Statutory Crime and Disorder obligation; the Committee shall act as the Crime and Disorder Committee for the purposes of section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and may co-opt additional members subject to the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Regulations 2009. To undertake such other scrutiny activities, relevant to the committee's scope, as may be required in relation to the performance of the Council, governance, financial management and discharge of statutory functions.

Membership:

Chair: Councillor Marion Couchman

Members: Councillors Craig Adams, Marie Bailey, Lee Clarke, Margaret Clarke, Jeremy Oates, Ben Price, Natalie Statham and Lee Wood (Vice-Chair)

Date	Issue	Format/Reason	Lead Officer	Lead Member
29 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Revised Local Development Scheme	Officer request	Richard Powell	Housing, Homelessness and Planning
18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Improving Water Quality Within Rivers in Tamworth	Referral from Full Council. Agreed to add to the Workplan 21/03/24 scoping document completed 11.06.24	Hannah Peate	Environment, Sustainability, Recycling & Waste
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Decant Policy	Member request: Forward Plan	Tina Mustafa	Housing/Homelessness & Planning
	Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Update 2025	Bi Annual update	Jo Sands	Co-operative Council, Community Partnerships and ASB
	Road Infrastructure within Tamworth	Member Request		Housing, Homelessness and Planning
	Nature Recovery Declaration	Annual update (Written Briefing )	Hannah Peate	Environment, Sustainability, Recycling & Waste
	Joint Waste Service	Quarterly Update (Written Briefing)	Steve Gee/Hannah Peate	Environment, Sustainability, Recycling & Waste
Planned for 29/01/25 – new date to be confirmed	Tamworth Housing and Supported Housing Strategy 2025-2030	Officer request	Jo Sands	Housing, Homelessness and Planning
TBC	Future High street Fund	Quarterly Update – no update in January as report at Full Council	Anna Miller	Leader of the Council

#### Items Considered/Recommendations to Cabinet/Further Action

Date of meeting	Item	Action	Cabinet Meeting Date	Response from Cabinet /Any further action
11/07/24	Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	Endorsed the recommendation within the report and made a further two Recommendations to Cabinet	18/07/24	Recommendation one agreed Recommendation two agreed with an amendment
07/08/24	Annual Garden Waste subscription Charge	Recommendation one – asked Cabinet to Defer Recommendation two- agreed	08/08/24	Agreed to defer subject to report returning to Scrutiny with further information on the 22/08/24
02/09/24	Annual Garden Waste subscription	The Committee supported the following recommendation for Cabinet to agree to – Approve the increase of the annual subscription fee to £41 effective 1st	29/08/24	Agreed by Cabinet - Approved the increase of the annual subscription fee to £41 effective 1st January 2025, with the sign-up window open in October.



		January 2025, with the sign up window open in October.		
02/09/24	Review of Bulky Waste Service	Create a working group to consider the matter further of bulky waste within the community	N/A	
02/10/24	Maintenance of Estates and Open Spaces	Two recommendations to go to Cabinet	31/10/24	Cabinet approved the two recommendations of the Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee
12/11/24	Asset Management strategy	One Recommendation (To be included in Cabinet report)	21/11/24	Strategy approved
11/12/24	Climate Change update	One recommendation to go to Cabinet	23/01/25	
29/01/25	Revised Local Development Scheme	One recommendation to go to Cabinet	20/02/25	

Items Considered/No further action

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
11/07/24	FHSF Update	Recommendations endorsed
07/08/24	Joint Waste Service Update and Fleet Procurement	Recommendations endorsed
02/09/24	Joint Waste Service Operations Update	Recommendations endorsed
	Nature Recovery Declaration	Recommendations endorsed
02/10/24	Future High Street Fund	Recommendations endorsed
	Review of the Heritage Engagement Officer Post	Recommendations endorsed
12/11/24	Community Safety Update	Recommendations endorsed
	Food Waste Service	Recommendations endorsed
	Joint Waste Service	Recommendations endorsed

**Working Groups**

**Upcoming Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee Meetings**

Meeting dates :	Cllr L Wood Cllr N Statham County Cllr J Oates	18 <sup>th</sup> February (Extra Meeting) 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Bulky Waste within the Community	Cllr M Couchman Cllr C Adams Cllr M Clarke Cllr N Statham	Established 22.08.24

Scrutiny Work Planning Proposal Form (for inclusion on the workplan)

<b>Title of proposed Scrutiny Item</b>	
<b>Scrutiny Committee making the request:</b>	
<b>Date the Committee agreed to add the item to the Workplan:</b>	
<b>Brief Background (Why has this come to Scrutiny attention? (egs Forward Plan/ Complaints/petition, etc):</b>	
<b>Which Corporate Priority will this scrutiny work help the authority achieve?</b> <a href="#">CORPORATE PLAN 2022-2025   Tamworth Borough Council</a>	
<b>Purpose and scope of the Item (Why do you want to undertake this review? What detail do you want this work to cover?):</b>	
<b>Method of Scrutiny: (Agenda Item/single issue meeting/short scrutiny review See notes):</b>	
<b>Proposed meeting date for Scrutiny (where applicable):</b>	
<b>Intended Outcomes:</b>	
<b>Information requested for inclusion in the Item research and deadlines:</b>	
<b>Who are the stakeholders/ potential invitees? (eg.officers/Cabinet Members/Voluntary Sector/Public etc)</b>	

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