Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford

Contact Jackie Allen
Direct Dial 01785 619552
Email jackieallen@staffordbc.gov.uk

Dear Members

Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will be held in the **Craddock Room, Civic Centre, Riverside Stafford** on **Thursday 3 December 2026 at 6.30pm** to deal with the business as set out on the agenda.

Please note, there will be a presentation from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service from 6pm. This is open to all Members.

Members are asked to note that this meeting will be recorded.

Members are reminded that contact officers are shown at the top of each report and members are welcome to raise questions etc in advance of the meeting with the appropriate officer.

Head of Law and Governance

COMMUNITY WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 3 December 2026

Chair - Councillor A P Edgeller

AGENDA

1 Minutes of 23 September 2026 as previously published on the Council's website.

2 Apologies

3 Public Question Time - Nil

4 Councillor Session - Nil

5 Members' Items - Nil

6 Called-In Items - Nil

			Page Nos
7	Officers' Reports		
	ITEM NO 7(a)	**Veolia Annual Report 2025-26 and Waste and Recycling Update** Gary Morrison, Regional Manager - Veolia	4 - 32
	ITEM NO 7(b)	**Disabled Facilities Grants Presentation** Housing Assistance, Health and Leisure Service Manager	-
	ITEM NO 7(c)	**Air Quality Annual Status Report** Head of Regulatory Services	33 - 104
	ITEM NO 7(d)	**Q2 Performance Report** Head of Wellbeing	105 - 115
	ITEM NO 7(e)	**Work Programme** Head of Wellbeing	116 - 120

Membership

Chair - Councillor A P Edgeller

A P Edgeller	J A Nixon
A D Hobbs	L Nixon
E G R Jones	J S Powell
P A Leason	J T Rose
D M McNaughton	J Thorley



Veolia Stafford Annual Report and Service Improvement Plan

2025/26

Date: 20th November 2026

Version: 1.0

Due for Review: N/A

Purpose of the Document

This document has been prepared with reference to Paragraph 2.36 of 'Part One: General Requirements', Paragraph 1.35 of 'Part Two: Service Requirement - Waste and Recycling Collection Services' and 1.16 of 'Part Three: Service Requirement - Processing of Dry Recycling and Other Recyclables' of 'Schedule A Service Specification - Part 1: Technical Specification' of the 'Call-Off Contract for Waste & Recycling Collection Service & Processing of Dry Recycling' ('the Contract') between Veolia ES (UK) Ltd ('Veolia') and Stafford Borough Council ('SBC').

This eighth Veolia Stafford Annual Report and Annual Service Improvement Plan ('Annual Report') covers the year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

This report is broken down into the following sections:

- Executive Summary
- Charges Summary
- Resources
- Health and Safety Summary
- Collection Operations Summary
- Waste Transfer Station Operations Summary
- Action Plans
- Annual Performance 2025/26
- Annual Service Improvement Plan 2025/26

Contents

1. Executive Summary **4**
2. Charges Summary **6**
3. Resources **7**
Absence Rates 9
Vehicles and Plant 10
4. Health and Safety Summary **11**
5. Collection Operations Summary **13**
Missed Collections 13
Containers Not Returned Correctly 17
Missed Assisted Collections 18
Collected Weights 19
Collected Weights Recycling Rate 20
6. Waste Transfer Station Operations Summary **21**
Waste Inputs 21
Waste Outputs 21
Waste Outputs Recycling Rate 23
Environmental Performance 24
7. Action Plans **25**
8. Annual Performance 2025/26 **27**
9. Annual Service Improvement Plan 2025/26 **28**
Review of Previous ASIP 28
2025/26 ASIP 29

Appendices

1. Executive Summary

The eighth full Contract year (April 2025 to March 2026) saw the partnership between Stafford Borough Council ('SBC') and Veolia achieve several successes and overcome challenges to the Services:

Veolia Stafford achieved record-breaking charity collection performance during the Eighth contract year (2025/26), representing the most successful charitable contributions since the contract began:

• Easter Egg Collection: Collected over 1,000 Easter eggs, which were distributed among three local charities:

A Child of Mine

Hearts and Hands

Rising Brook Foodbank

• Christmas Foodbank Collections: Over £4,500 worth of food and goods donations were collected and split between two local charities:

Hearts and Hands

Rising Brook Foodbank

• Christmas Tree Recycling for Katherine House Hospice: Raised over £17,500 for Katharine House Hospice, Stafford through the collection and recycling of real Christmas trees. This was an increase of over £4,500 from the previous year.

These milestones represent the best year for charity collections since the start of the contract, demonstrating Veolia Stafford's strong commitment to community engagement and support for local charitable organisations serving vulnerable populations in the Stafford Borough area. The combined charitable impact exceeded £22,000 in monetary value plus over 1,000 Easter eggs donated to families and individuals in need.

• Absence Rates: Average absence rate increased significantly to 7.45% in 2024/25, up from 3.72% in 2024/25, representing a 100.72% increase. This was due to a number of long term sicknesses including an ageing workforce. Company absence monitoring procedures were increased to reduce the sickness levels going to the new financial year.

• Health and Safety: one RIDDOR accident reported throughout the year, with 10 accidents, 2 incidents, and 96 near misses recorded. There is a decrease in near-miss reporting (152 vs previous years) we're actively working with the crews and Supervision to team to increase in the near miss reporting culture.

• Missed Collections - SLA Performance: 90% of missed collections were resolved within the Service Level Agreement.

• Staff Development: Significant training investments including implementation of apprenticeships of Professional Competence in Transport Management for 2 of the Service Delivery Managers.

• Environmental Compliance: One Environment Agency visits 5th October 2026 with only 1 minor update required , zero litter complaints received, maintaining full compliance with environmental standards

• Missed Collections: Reported missed collections have increased by 32% from 1564 in 2024/25 to 2061 in 2025/26. This is due to inclement weather in January 2026 leading to conditions being unsafe for carrying out collections. Good news is that up to that point the trajectory of the missed collections were at a 7.29% reduction.

• Waste Transfer Station: Processed 11,445.51 tonnes of recyclable waste (1.15% decrease from 2024/25), with output recycling rate of 43.83% compared to 45.42% the previous year

• Leadership Changes: Former Operations Manager [redacted] moved back into the workforce and [redacted] from another area of the business assumed Operations Manager role via secondment in March 2026.

• Total Waste Collected: 48,374 50,349 tonnes collected, representing a marginal 3.94% decrease from 50,349 tonnes in 2024/25

• Annual Charges: Total contract charges ranged from £387,284.79 to £415,130.21 per month (excluding VAT) across the reporting period

• Recycling Rate: Collection-based recycling rate was 43.830%, a 7.32% decrease from 45.50% in 2024/25, primarily due to a 8.42% decrease in garden waste volumes

• Containers Not Returned Correctly: Complaints increased by 5.88% from 136 in 2024/25 to 144 in 2025/26. A new investigation process was introduced where identified if operatives have failed to return containers twice in a calendar year may face disciplinary action.

• Missed Assisted Collections: Increased by 1.51% from 265 to 269, partly due to an increase in new developments in and around Stafford and Stone. The collections of new properties is hampered by the way the developers open up new estates by completing the properties on the furthest side of the building site first. which creates access issues.

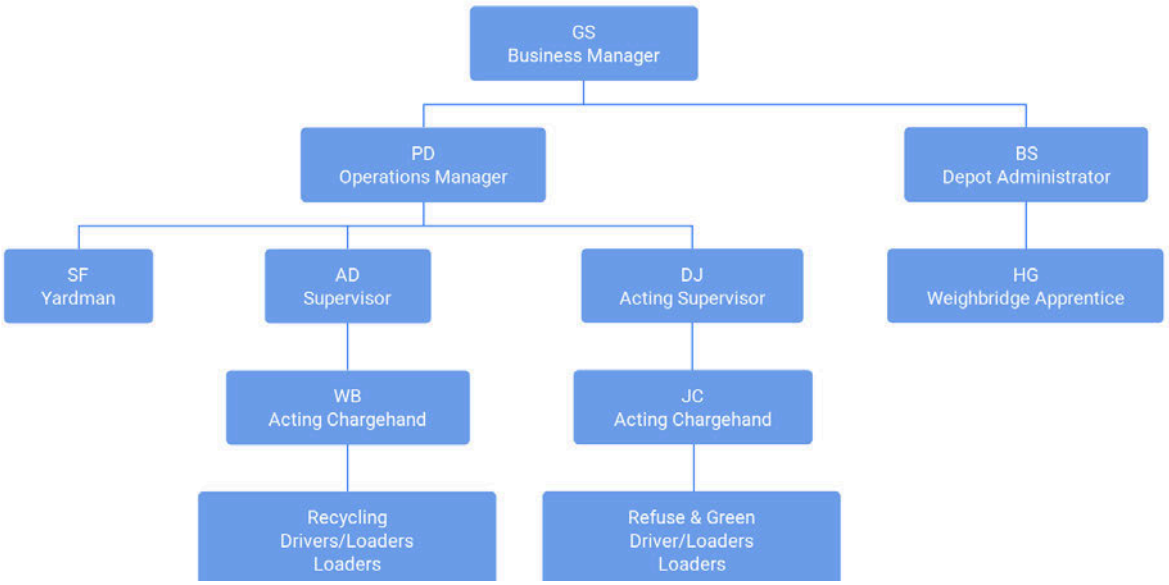
2. Charges Summary

The following table summarises all charges made by Veolia to SBC relating to the services provided under the Contract. Each monthly report acts as 'backing data' for the invoice that includes the reporting month's Core charge and the previous month's Variable charge.

Reporting Period Charges	Value (Ex-VAT)
April 2025 Core Mar Var	£xxx,xxx.xx
May 2025 Core Apr Var	£xxx,xxx.xx
June 2025 Core May Var	£xxx,xxx.xx
July 2025 Core Jun Var	£xxx,xxx.xx
August 2025 Core Jul Var	£xxx,xxx.xx
September 2025 Core Aug Var	£xxx,xxx.xx
October 2025 Core Sep Var	£xxx,xxx.xx
November 2025 Core Oct Var	£xxx,xxx.xx
December 2025 Core Nov Var	£xxx,xxx.xx
January 2026 Core Dec Var	£xxx,xxx.xx
February 2026 Core Jan Var	£xxx,xxx.xx
March 2026 Core Feb Var	£xxx,xxx.xx

3. Resources

The structure as of March 2026 is as follows. Former Operations Manager [redacted] has moved back into the workforce and [redacted] has taken up the position as the Operations Manager. The team was restructured to report directly to [redacted].



We continued to invest in staff training and development throughout 2025/26, as can be seen below. Training of particular note includes [redacted] completing his Certificate of Professional Competence in Transport Management, jointly developed by Logistics UK, and Acting. This investment adds value to the contract, strengthens operational delivery, and improves staff retention.

The core hours of work for each role are provided in the table below. Note these are not necessarily contractually mandated working hours in all cases and are provided for reference only.

Role	Core Hours
Business Manager	08:30 - 17:00
Operations Manager	08:30 - 17:00
Supervisor x 2	08:30 - 17:00
Depot Administrator	08:30 - 16:00
Acting Chargehand	06:30 - 14:30
Driver / Loader	06:30 - 15:00
Loader	06:45 - 15:00

The responsibilities allocated to each role are documented in the table below. Please note that these responsibilities are shown for reference only and do not necessarily reflect all of the duties listed in contracts of employment.

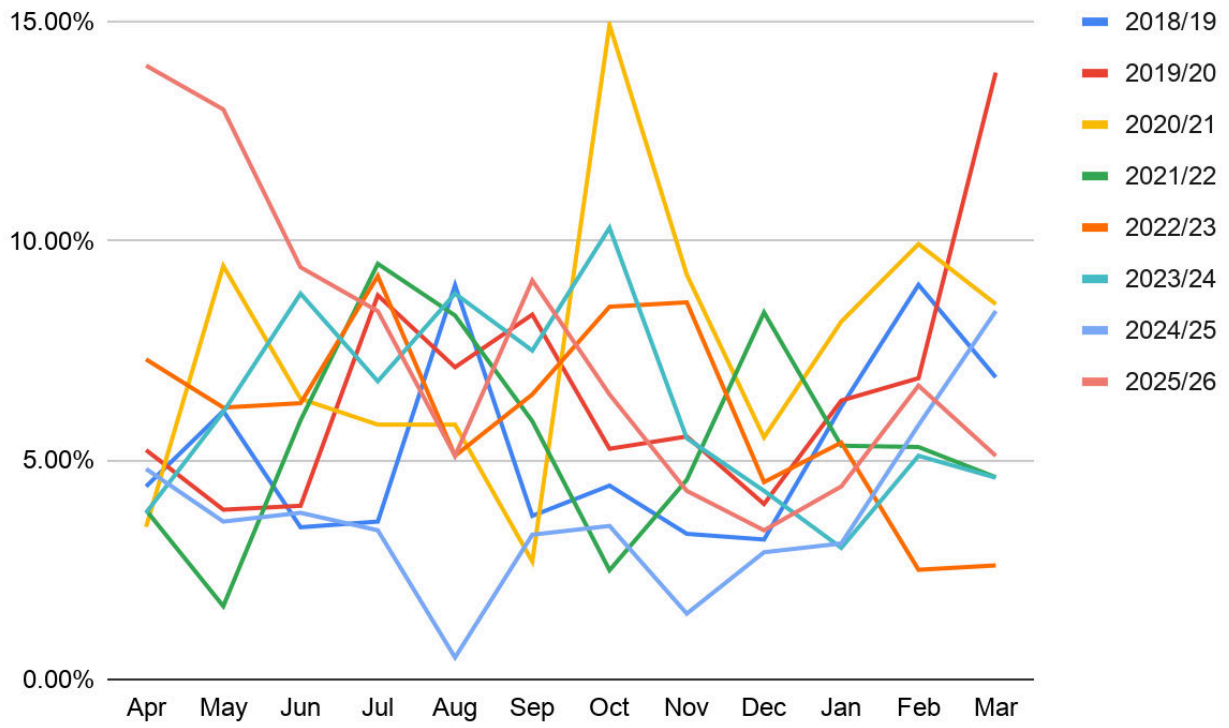
There have been no fundamental changes to responsibilities since the previous annual report. Moving forward, we are proactively looking to streamline the positions of the Management team in the year 2026/27 to align to the standard Service Delivery Manager Roles,to keep the job titles consistent across the region.

Role	Responsibilities
Business Manager [redacted]	Responsible for all aspects of service provision, legal compliance, including health and safety and environmental statutes, and financial and transport management.Responsible for all aspects of Contract compliance, data analysis to identify opportunities for improvement and client reporting.
Operations Manager [redacted]	Responsible for service delivery. All operations staff report to this role. This position is jointly responsible for transport management compliance as TM2. Reports directly to the Business Manager.
Supervisor [redacted]	Service management, including resource allocation. Also responsible for vehicle compliance, investigations, and supervision of crews. Reports to the Senior Supervisor. Responsible for delivering training to all depot staff in line with programmes and reactive training following incidents (within Veolia or elsewhere).
Depot Administrator [redacted]	The role includes payroll input, purchasing, and invoicing. Bev is also the depot's Mental Health First Aider.
Acting Chargehand [redacted] Acting Chargehand [redacted]	Distributing keys, folders, and documents at the start of the day. Assisting with the timely dispatch of crews to begin collections at 0700 hours each working day. Monitoring of service throughout the day to ensure completion of tasks within the Contract's Service Level Agreements (SLAs), escalating issues to the Supervisor and Senior Supervisor where required. Completing driver/loader debriefs at the end of the day.
Acting Yardman [redacted]	Responsible for arranging haulage and loading of recyclable materials to ensure compliance with the Environmental Permit and relevant Waste Exemptions, and for the general upkeep of the yard.
Driver / Loader	Driving refuse and/or recycling collection vehicles (RCVs) per relevant licences and regulations, in addition to the collection of waste.
Loader	The collection of waste follows relevant regulations, Contractual standards, and training instructions.

Absence Rates

The following chart shows absence rates by month in 2025/26 for all Contract Years in the format required in the Specification. The ensuing chart shows this data annualised for ease of reference.

The average absence rate increased significantly to 7.45% in 2024/25, up from 3.72% in 2024/25, representing a 100.72% increase. This was due to a number of long term sicknesses including an ageing workforce. Company absence monitoring procedures were increased to reduce the sickness levels going to the new financial year.



Vehicles and Plant

The following table shows the vehicles employed on the contract in March 2025:

Vehicle Type	Count	Utilisation*
26-tonne RCV	14	85.71%
26-tonne ‘70:30 split’ RCV	9	88.88%
12-tonne Narrow Access RCV	3	66.66%
7.5 tonne Cage Vehicle	1	40%
JCB Telescopic Material Handler	1	100%
Vauxhall Van (Supervisor Van)	2	-
Total	**28**	**90%**

*Utilisation is taken to mean the capacity of the vehicle used. All vehicles are filled to capacity at least once per operational working day so utilisation is given as % above including servicing arrangements. The JCB Telescopic Material Handler is used daily.

4. Health and Safety Summary

Veolia's health and safety performance in 2025/26 is summarised in the table below.

2025/26	Incidents	Accidents	RIDDOR	Near Misses
Apr	0	1	0	5
May	0	0	0	16
Jun	1	1	0	17
Jul	0	2	0	10
Aug	0	1	0	6
Sep	0	1	0	8
Oct	0	2	0	4
Nov	1	1	0	6
Dec	0	0	0	7
Jan	0	0	1	9
Feb	0	0	0	6
Mar	0	1	0	2
YTD Total	2	10	1	96

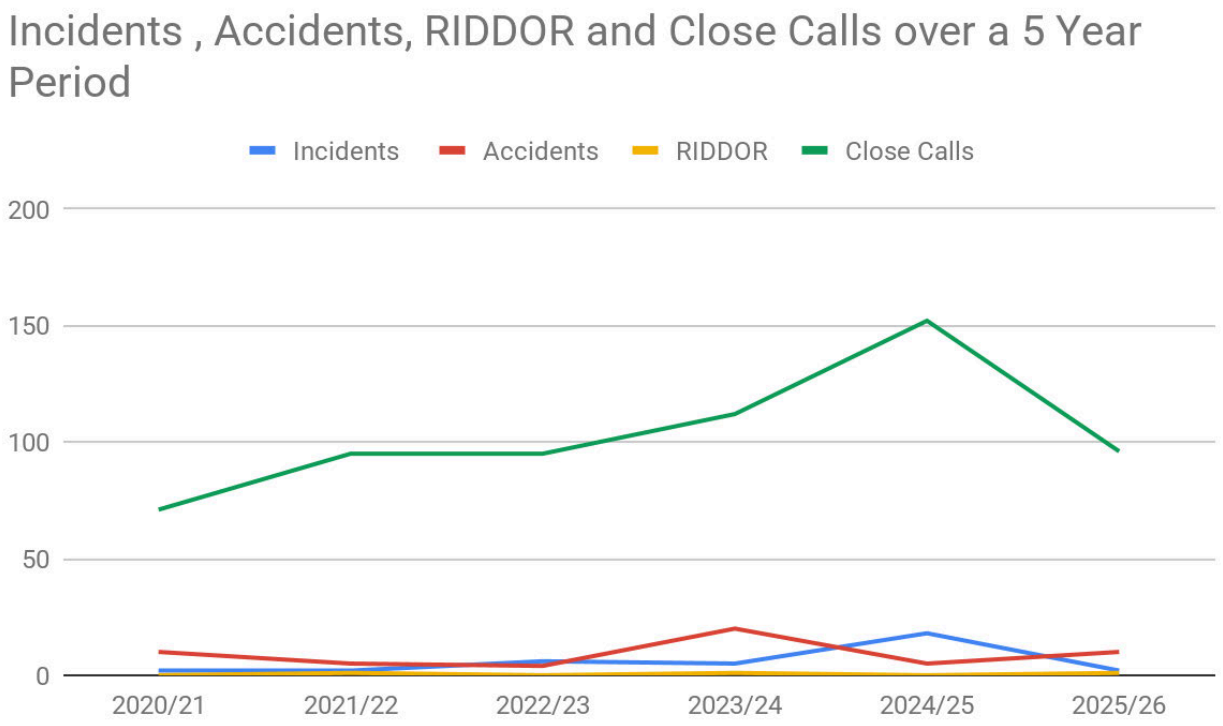
For reference, a 'Near Miss' is defined by the Health and Safety Executive ('HSE') as 'an event not causing harm, but has the potential to cause injury or ill health'. Veolia encourages all staff to report Near Misses for investigation, action, and feedback to address potential issues before an accident occurs, facilitating a proactive safety culture.

During the review period, 10 accidents resulting in personal injuries were reported between April 2025 and March 2026. The incidents included three rolled ankles, two individuals struck by bins coming down of the lifting equipment, two instances of operatives struck by bin lids, a fitter striking his head under a vehicle, an operative breaking fingers stopping himself falling and an operative struck by a falling branch.

During 2025/26, a total of 96 close calls, 2 incidents, and 10 accidents were reported across waste collection operations. The most prevalent safety concerns are highlighted in the category chart below with the majority falling under vehicle equipment and depot maintenance.

Veolia Stafford is committed to Health and Safety compliance. As a result of this, Veolia Stafford continued the Health and Safety Committee, started in September 2021, to bring together Trade Union representatives and other members of the workforce with the depot Supervisory and Management teams, along with relevant experts from across Veolia (including Risk & Assurance, and Supply Chain) to raise issues and agree on solutions through open conversation and honest dialogue. This has resulted in the number of 'near misses' raised by the workforce increasing and improvements in staff engagement, with a number of prominent issues identified and resolved.

Veolia's health & safety performance over 5 years is summarised in the graph below.



2025/26 has seen a decrease in close call reports from the previous year. We have continued to motivate the workforce in participating to improve the reporting culture within the depot including the rollout of the StreetKind program designed to show our support and expected respect towards our employees whilst out conducting their duties. In addition to this, the ongoing conversations during Health & Safety Committee meetings, and regular toolbox talks and safety alerts for the safety concern areas of our business.

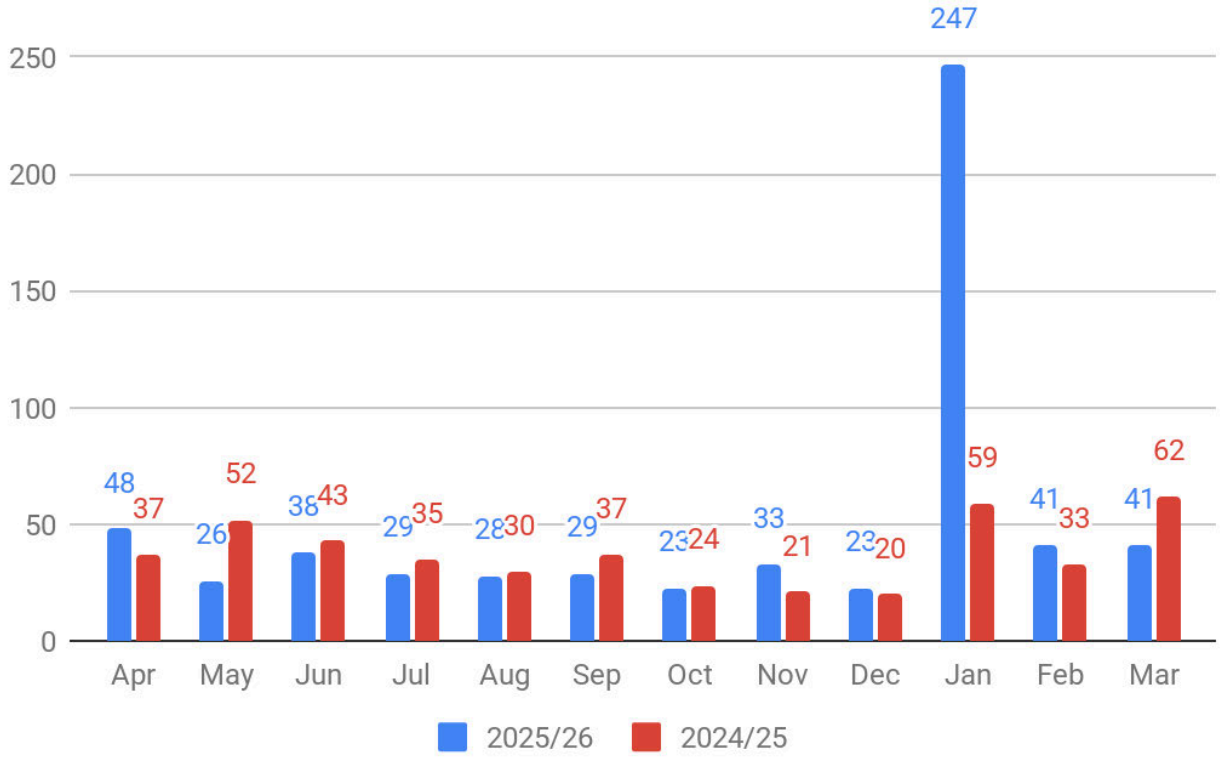


5. Collection Operations Summary

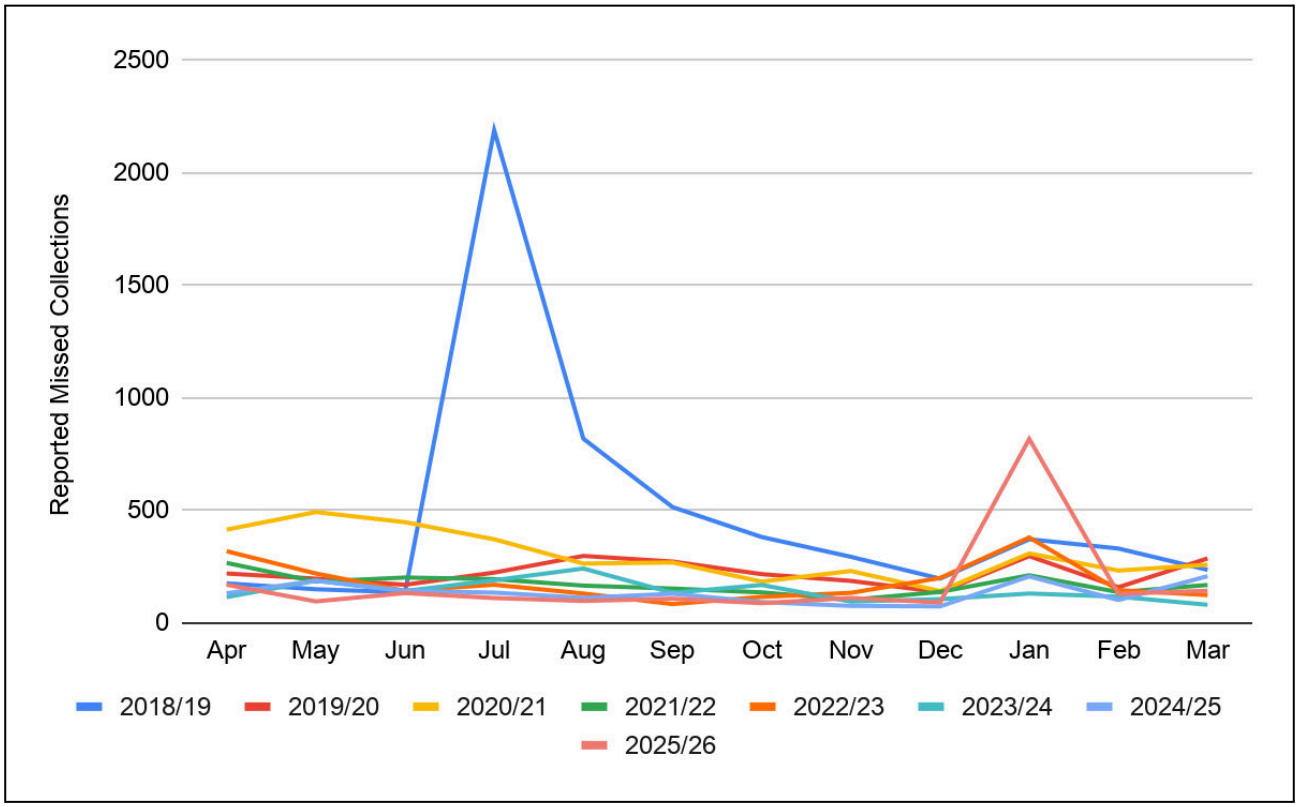
Missed Collections

The number of reported missed collections increased by 32% in 2025/26 compared to 2024/25. Reported missed collections increased from 1564 in 2024/25 to 2061 in 2025/26. This is due to inclement weather in January 2026 leading to conditions being unsafe for carrying out collections. Good news is that up to that point the trajectory of the missed collections were at a 7.29% reduction, maintaining a 'strike rate' of 99.95% of collections successfully completed first time.

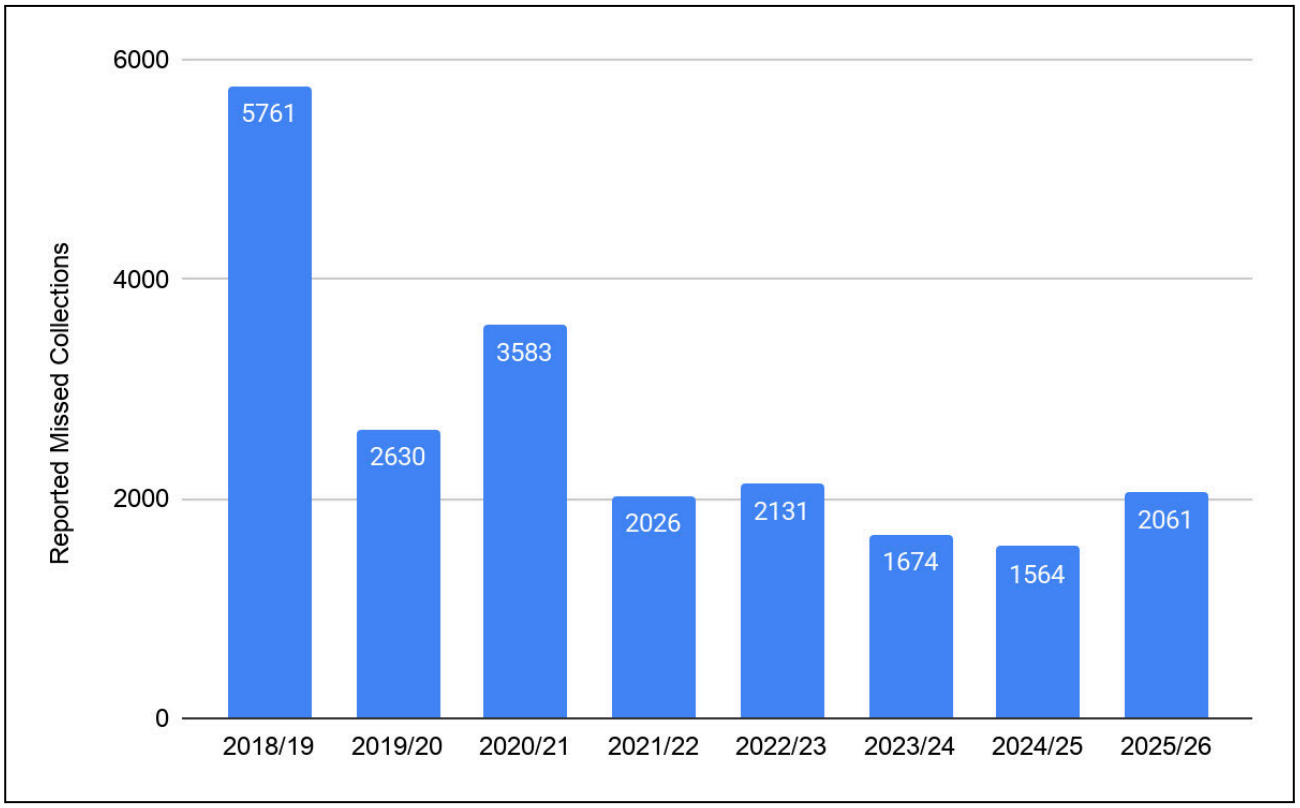
Despite this, the missed collection performance has consistently fallen below the expected standards, breaching 'Band 3' performance levels in all quarters of 2025/26. We are determined to improve performance through the implementation of the action plans outlined later in this report, in partnership with SBC. The Performance Indicators for the waste and recyclables collections element of the contract are detailed below, beginning with the reported missed collections. The following chart shows reported missed collections in 2025/26 vs. 2024/25.



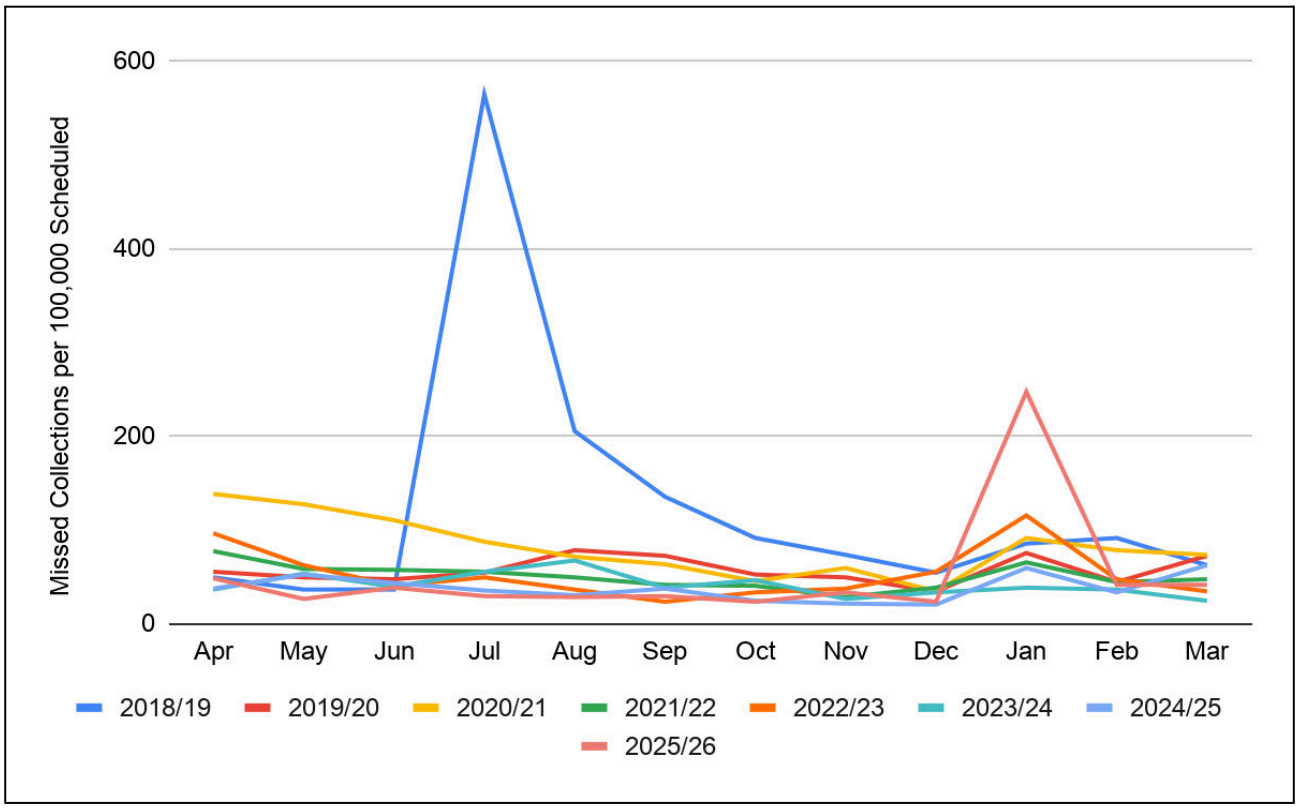
The following chart shows the number of reported missed collections year-on-year from 2019/20 to 2025/26 in the format required in the Specification. It is noted that, with the increasing volume of data, the format requested in the Specification may need to be adjusted. On this basis, aggregated charts are also provided where possible for ease of reference.

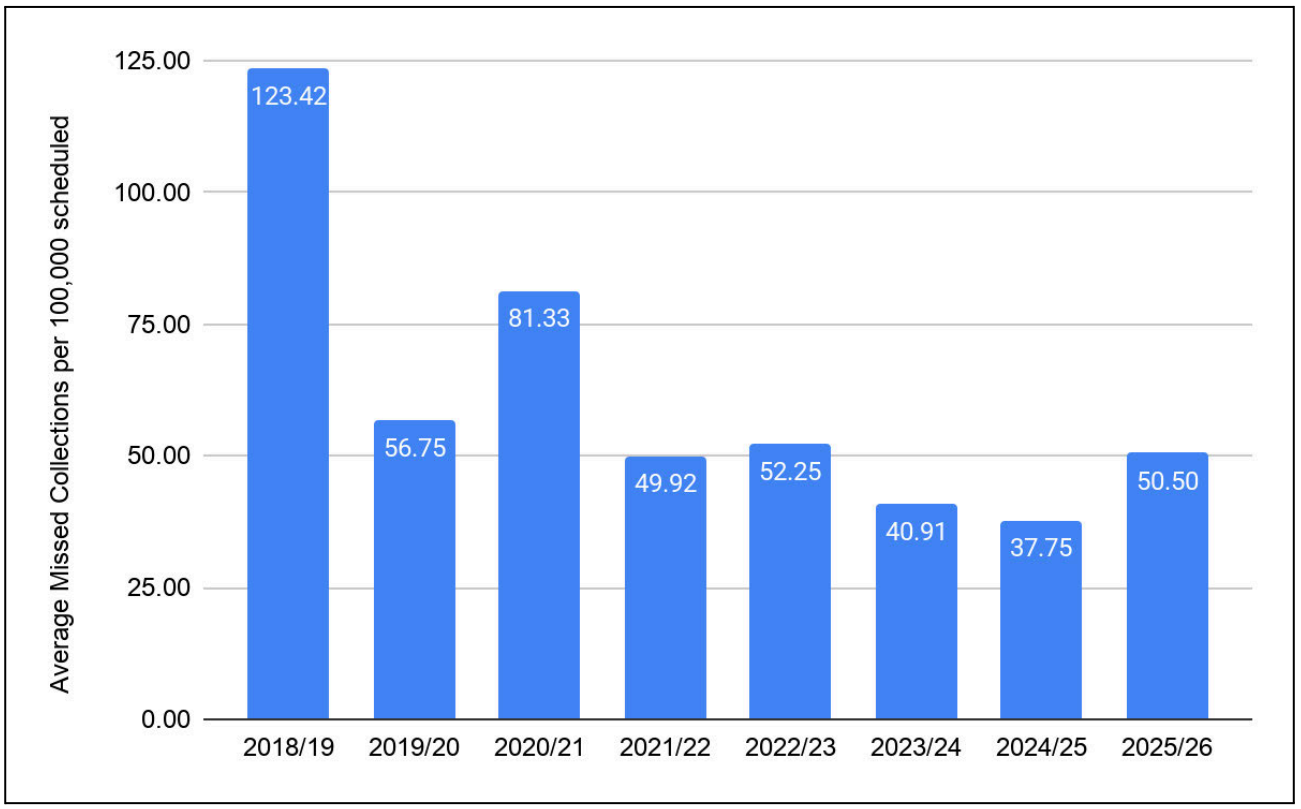


The following chart shows this information on an annualised basis for ease of reference.

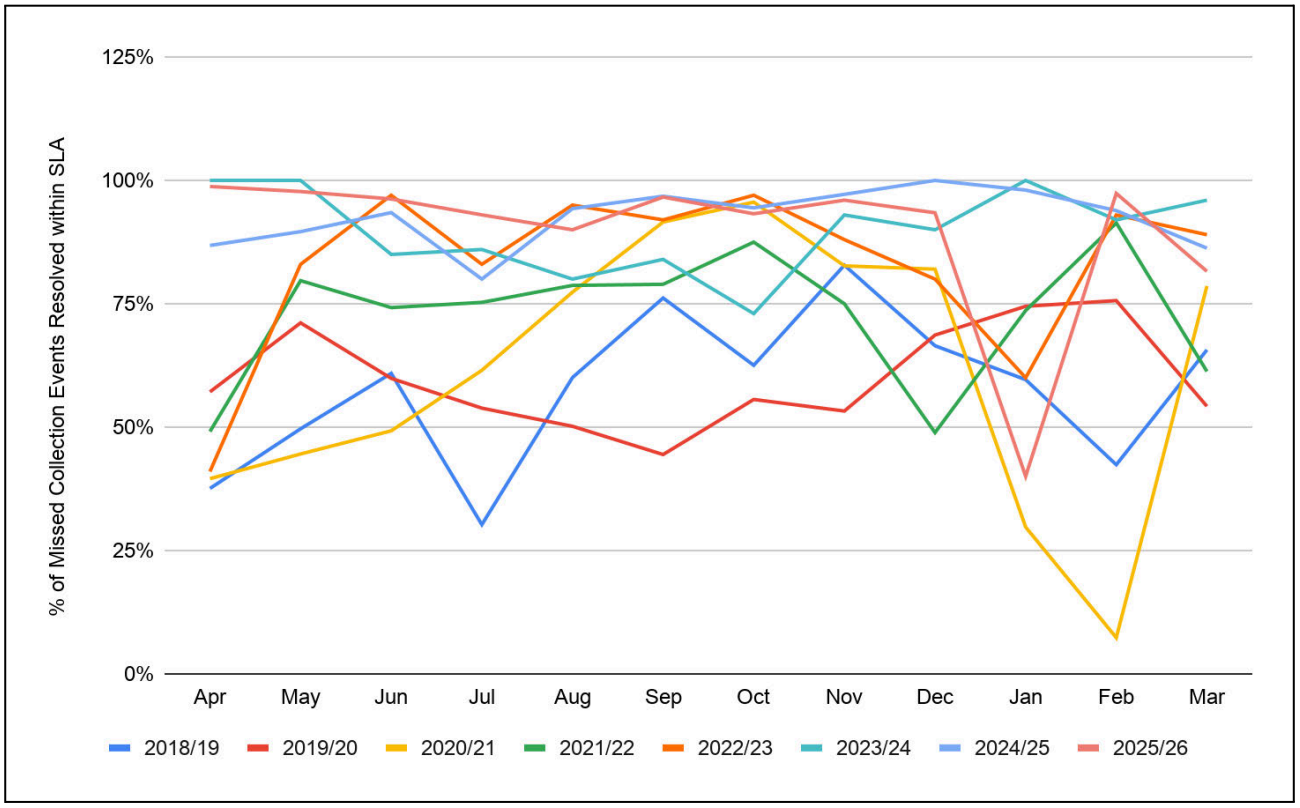


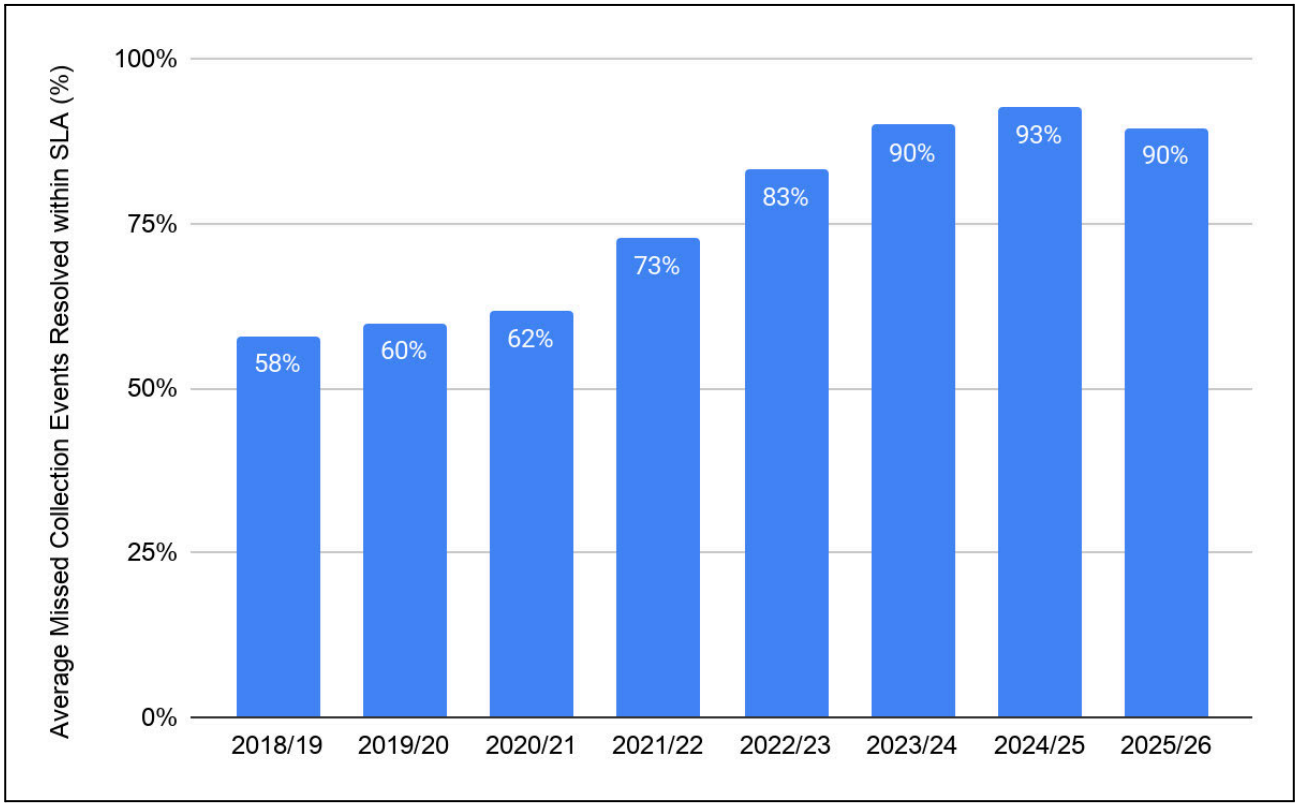
The following chart shows missed collections per 100,000 scheduled collections from 2018/19 to 2025/26. The average 'missed collections per 100,000 scheduled' value increased from 37.75 in 2024/25 to 50.50 in 2025/26, as shown in the ensuing 'aggregated' chart below.





The Operations team has focused on resolving more missed collections within the Contract's Service Level Agreement ('SLA') during 2025/26. The following chart shows a comparison year-on-year from 2019/20 to 2025/26. 2025/26 represents the most successful year for achieving the missed collections SLA at an average of 93% of reported events resolved within SLA.

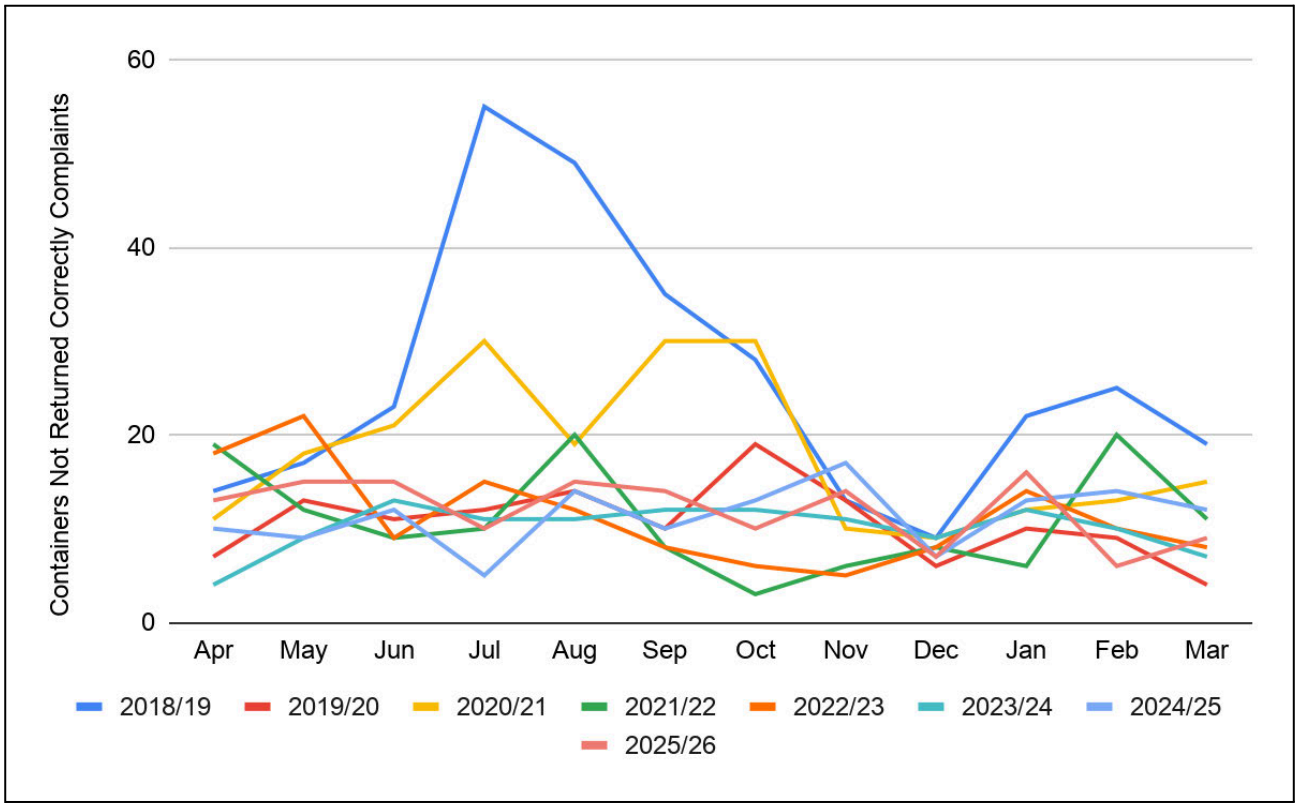




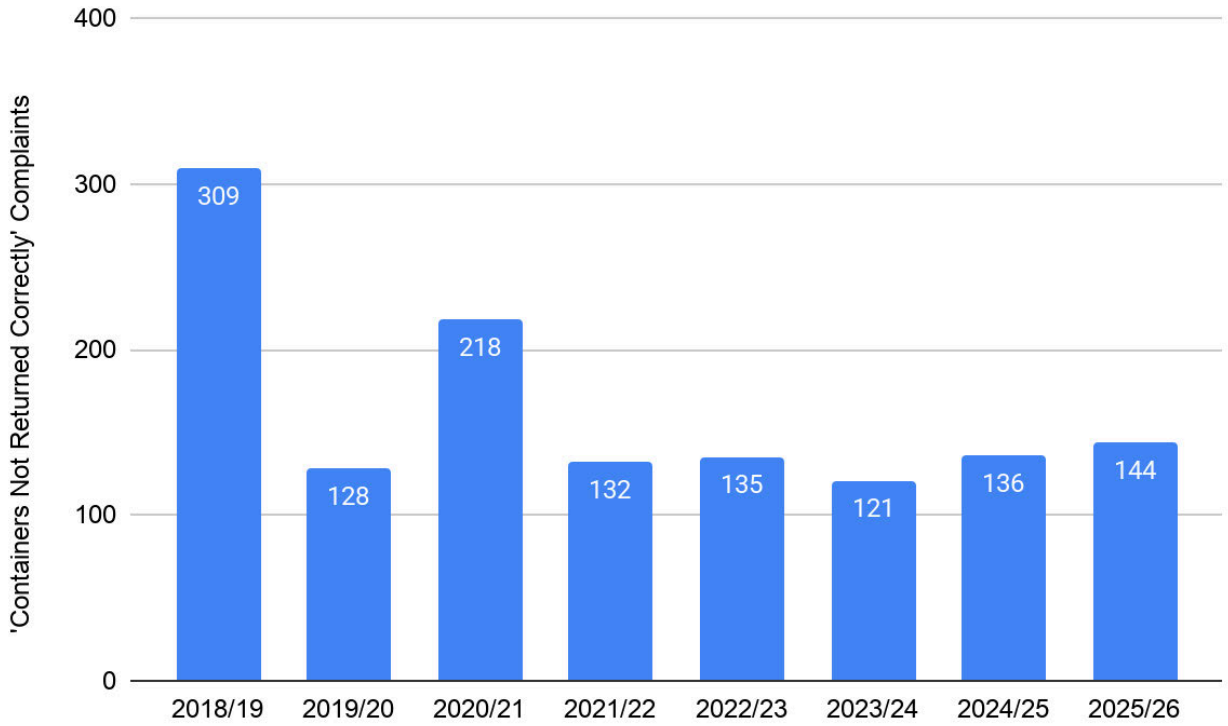
Containers Not Returned Correctly

There were 144 reported complaints about containers not being returned correctly in 2025/26, compared to 136 in 2023/24. This represents a 9.68% increase. Details of the initiatives undertaken to reduce the number of 'containers not returned correctly' complaints are included in the 'Action Plans' section of this report. The following chart shows the comparison year-on-year from 2019/20 through to 2025/26.

Further to the action plans, Veolia Stafford has introduced a new initiative in which each 'Container Not Returned' reported is now investigated, and following any operative failing to return the container to the collection point twice in a calendar year, they may face disciplinary action.

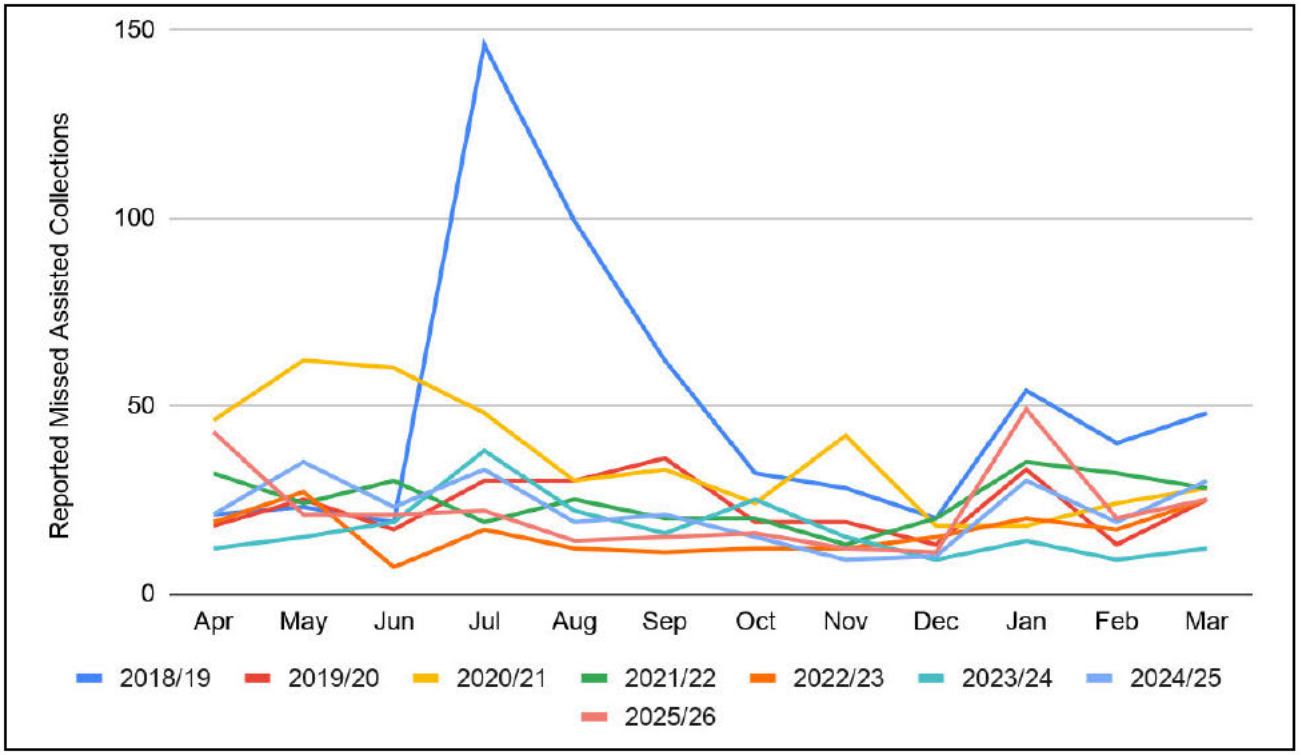


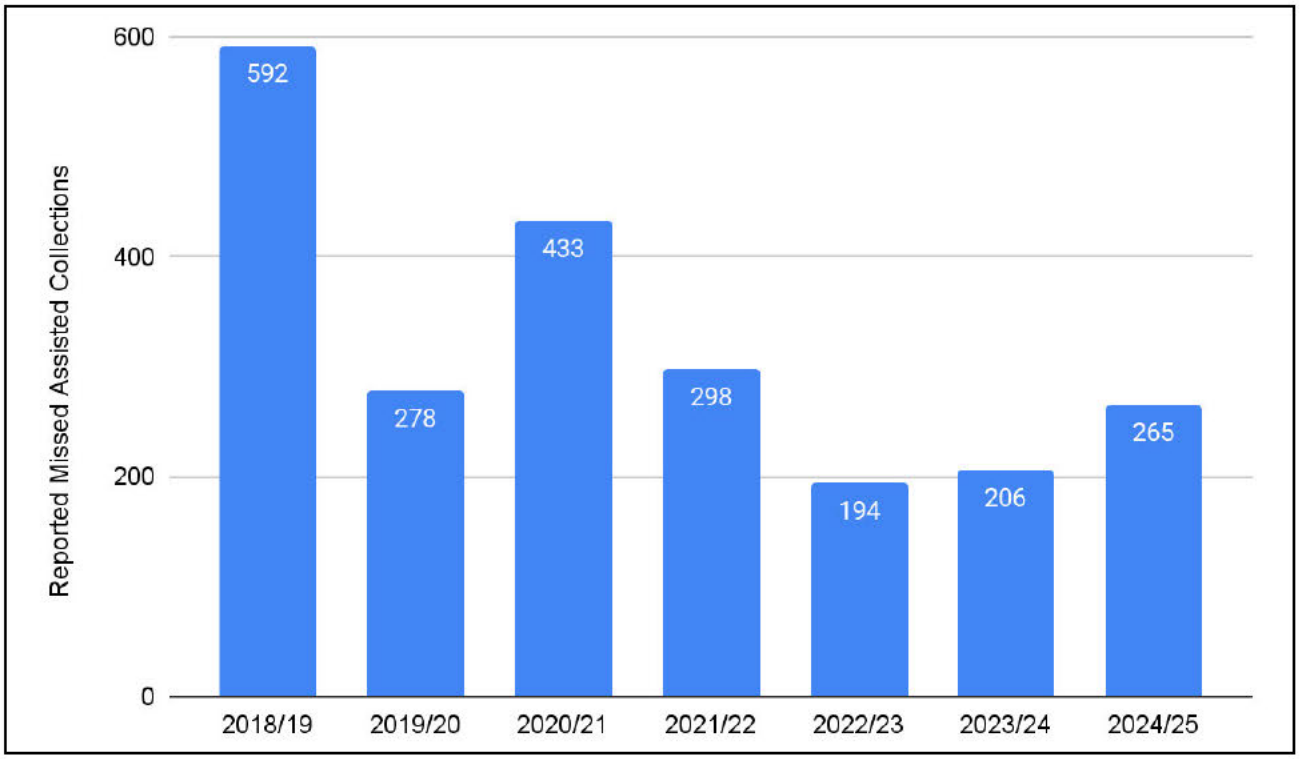
The following chart shows the aggregated number of such complaints per annum since the contract started.



Missed Assisted Collections

The following chart shows the number of missed assisted collections compared to previous Contract years. 2025/26 saw a 28.64% increase in missed assisted collections compared to 2024/25 (from 206 reported missed assisted collections to 265). This is in part due to a new system introduced to the marking of new Garden Waste Subscriptions. To ensure the collection crew are aware of the new subscription to the garden waste service, an assisted flag was put on the property. This increased missed assisted collections.


Reported Missed Assisted Collections
150
100
50
0
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Feb
Mar
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25
2025/26


Reported Missed Assisted Collections
600
400
200
0
592
278
433
298
194
206
265
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

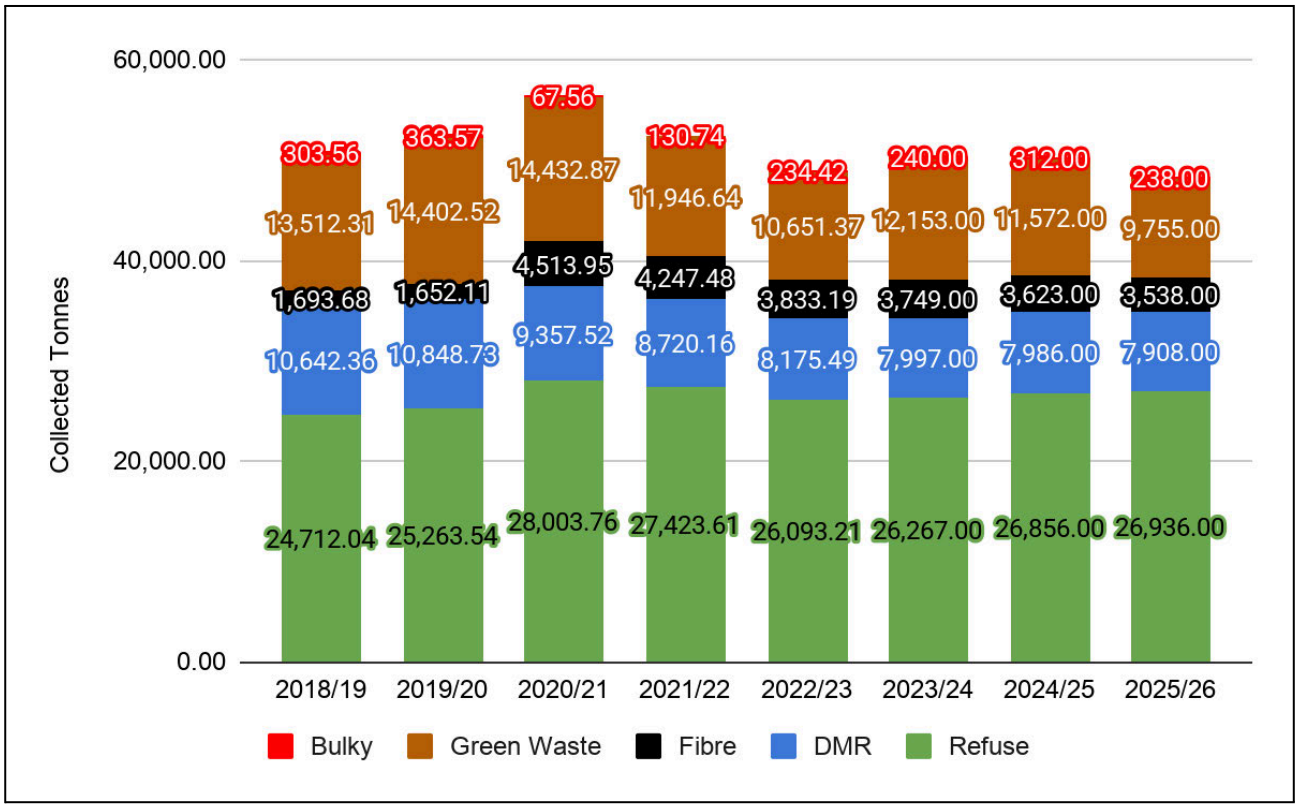
Collected Weights

Overall, Veolia collected 48,375.00 tonnes of recyclable materials and waste from Stafford Borough properties between April 2025 and March 2026. This compares to 50,349,00 tonnes in the previous year, representing a 3.92% decrease.

The

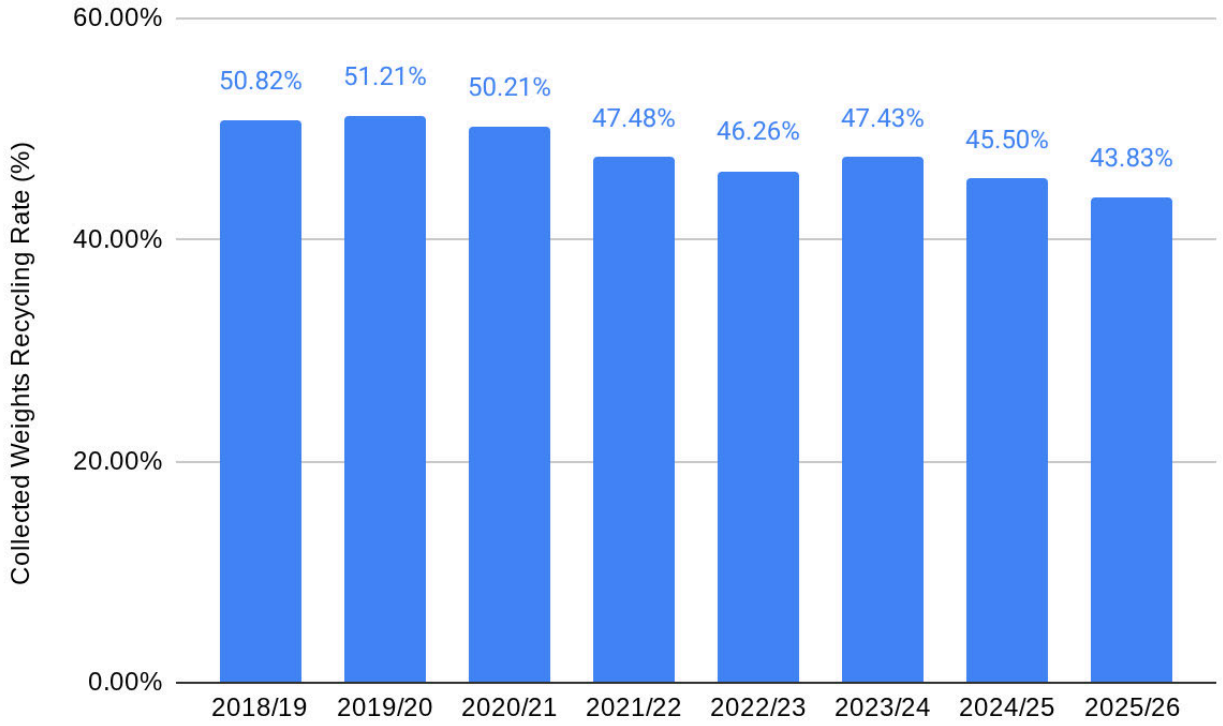
	Refuse	DMR	Fibre	Green Waste	Bulky	Total
2018/19	24,712.04	10,642.36	1,693.68	13,512.31	303.56	50,863.95
% Change	*2.23%*	*1.94%*	*-2.45%*	*6.59%*	*19.77%*	*3.28%*
2019/20	25,263.54	10,848.73	1,652.11	14,402.52	363.57	52,530.47
% Change	*10.85%*	*-13.75%*	*173.22%*	*0.21%*	*-81.42%*	*7.32%*
2020/21	28,003.76	9,357.52	4,513.95	14,432.87	67.56	56,375.66
% Change	*-2.07%*	*-6.81%*	*-5.90%*	*-17.23%*	*93.52%*	*-6.93%*
2021/22	27,423.61	8,720.16	4,247.48	11,946.64	130.74	52,468.63
% Change	*-4.85%*	*-6.25%*	*-9.75%*	*-10.84%*	*79.30%*	*-6.63%*
2022/23	26,093.21	8,175.49	3,833.19	10,651.37	234.42	48,987.68
% Change	*0.67%*	*-2.18%*	*-2.20%*	*14.10%*	*2.38%*	*2.90%*
2023/24	26,267.00	7,997.00	3,749.00	12,153.00	240.00	50,406.00
% Change	*2.24%*	*-0.14%*	*-3.36%*	*-4.78%*	*30.00%*	*-0.11%*
2024/25	26,856.00	7,986.00	3,623.00	11,572.00	312.00	50,349.00
% Change	*0.30%*	*22.15%*	*118.27%*	*-69.43%*	*-23.72%*	*-3.92%*
2025/26	26,936.00	9,755.00	7,908.00	3,538.00	238.00	48,375.00

following chart shows the collected weights from 2018/19 to 2023/24 for reference.



Collected Weights Recycling Rate

The recycling rate based on collected weights over this period was 43.83%, a 3.672% decrease from the 45.50% rate recorded in 2024/25. The decrease is mainly due to the 15.70% decrease in garden waste collected weights.

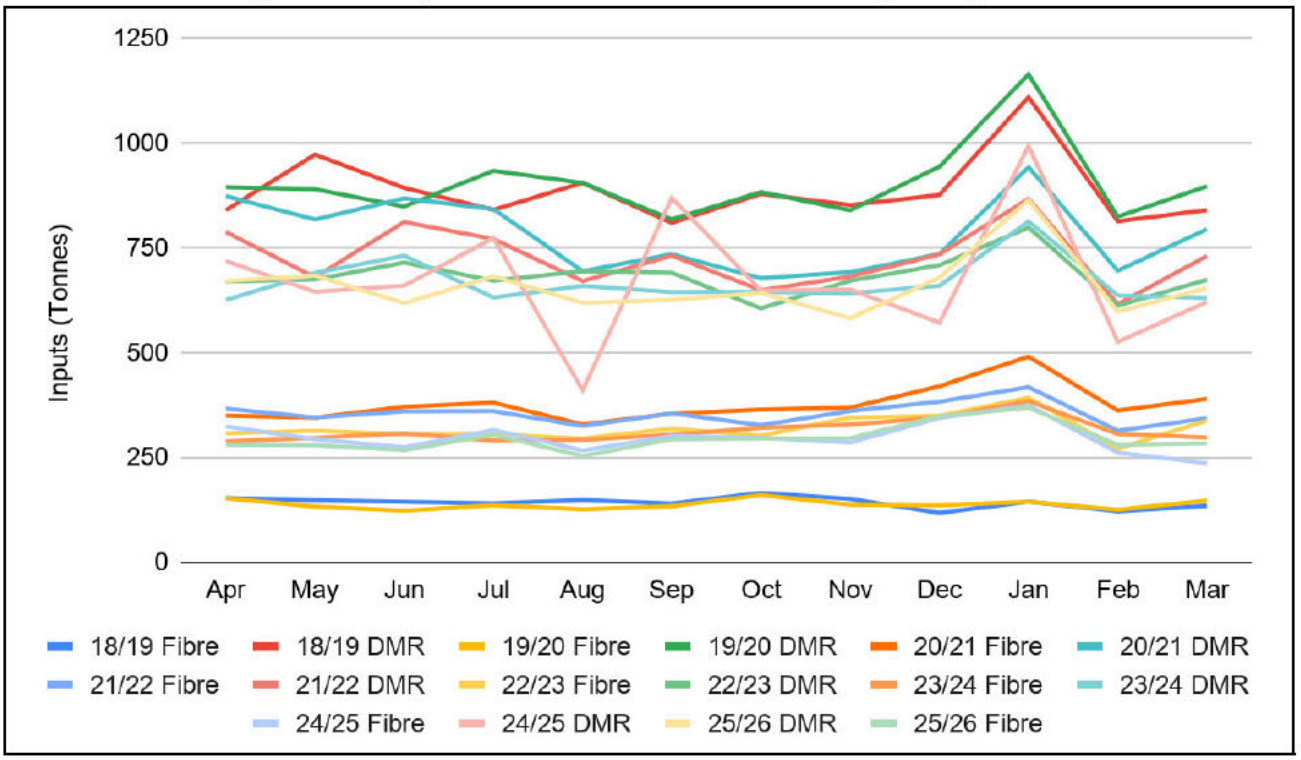


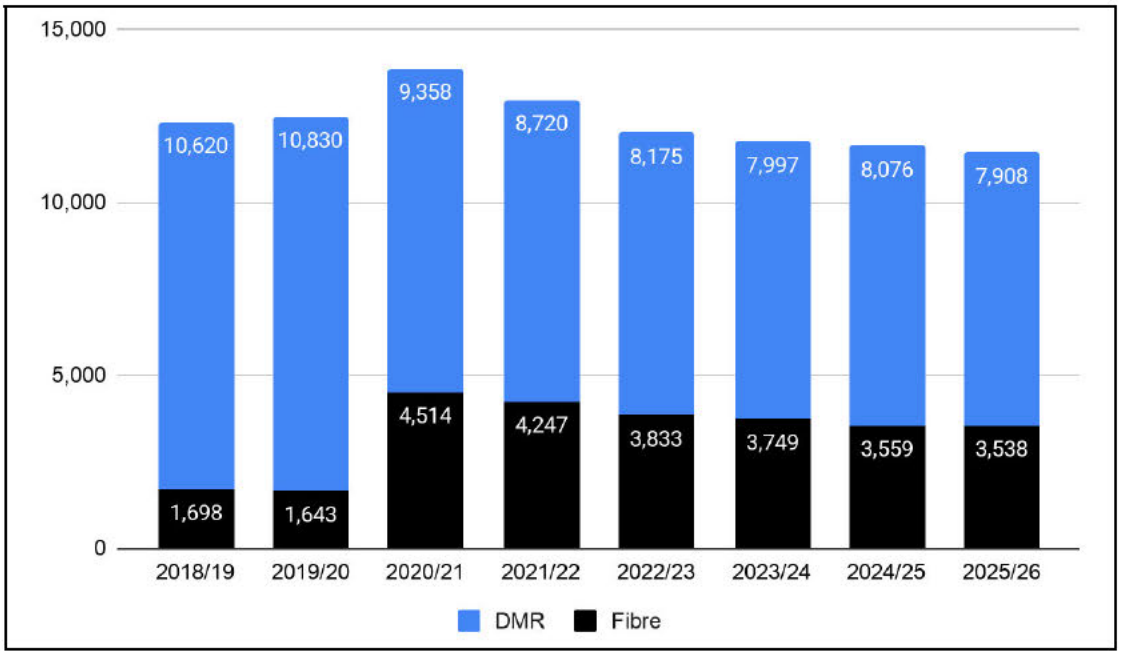
6. Waste Transfer Station Operations Summary

Waste Inputs

11,657.44 tonnes of recyclable waste (3538 tonnes of paper and card from Stafford's blue bags and 7,908 tonnes of mixed plastics, metals, and glass from the blue bins) were weighed into Stafford WTS in 2025/26, compared to 11,579.13 tonnes in 2024/25. This represented a .68% increase.

For reference, the Site's Environmental Permit allows less than 25,000 tonnes of mixed recycling to be accepted to the Site per annum. The Site's Waste Exemption allows 15,000 tonnes of fibre (mixed card and paper) to be stored on-site per annum. The following charts show the inputs on a monthly basis for all Contract Years as required in the Specification and on an annual basis respectively.



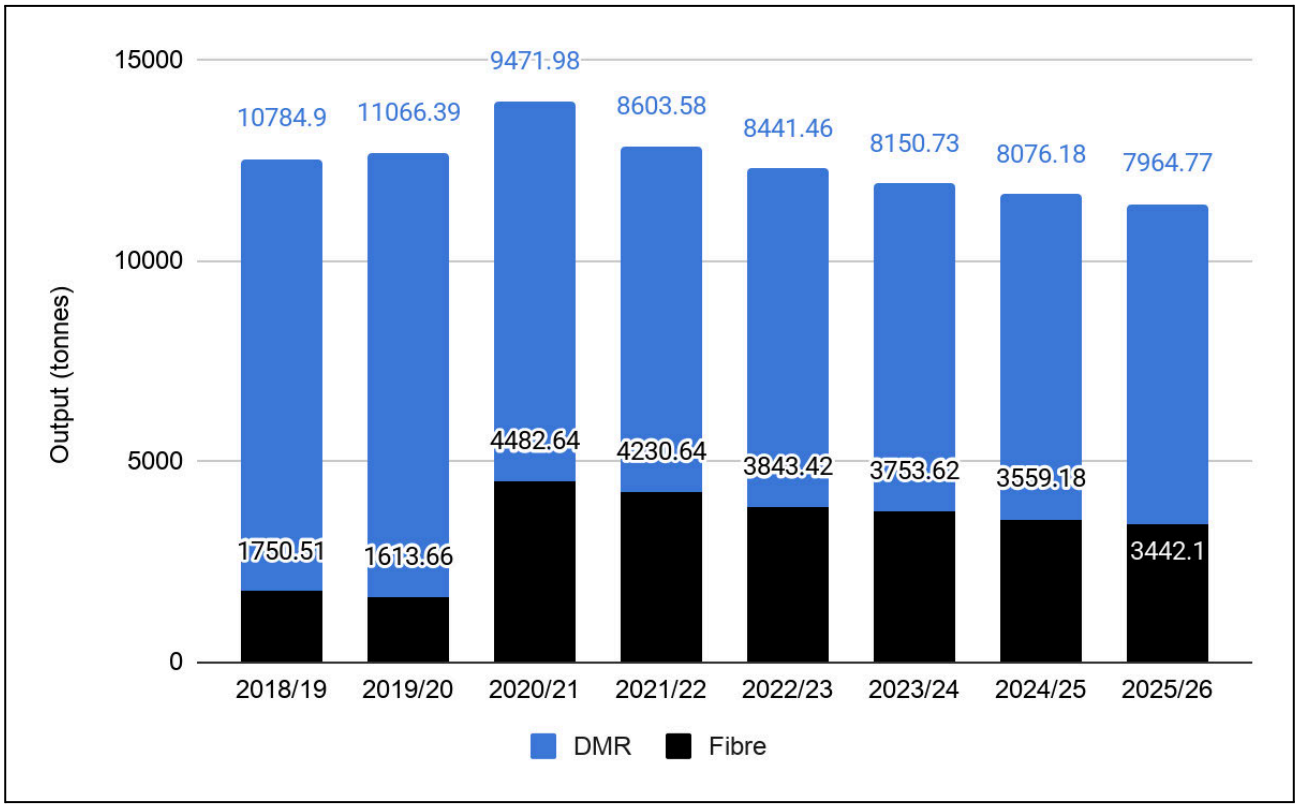


Waste Outputs

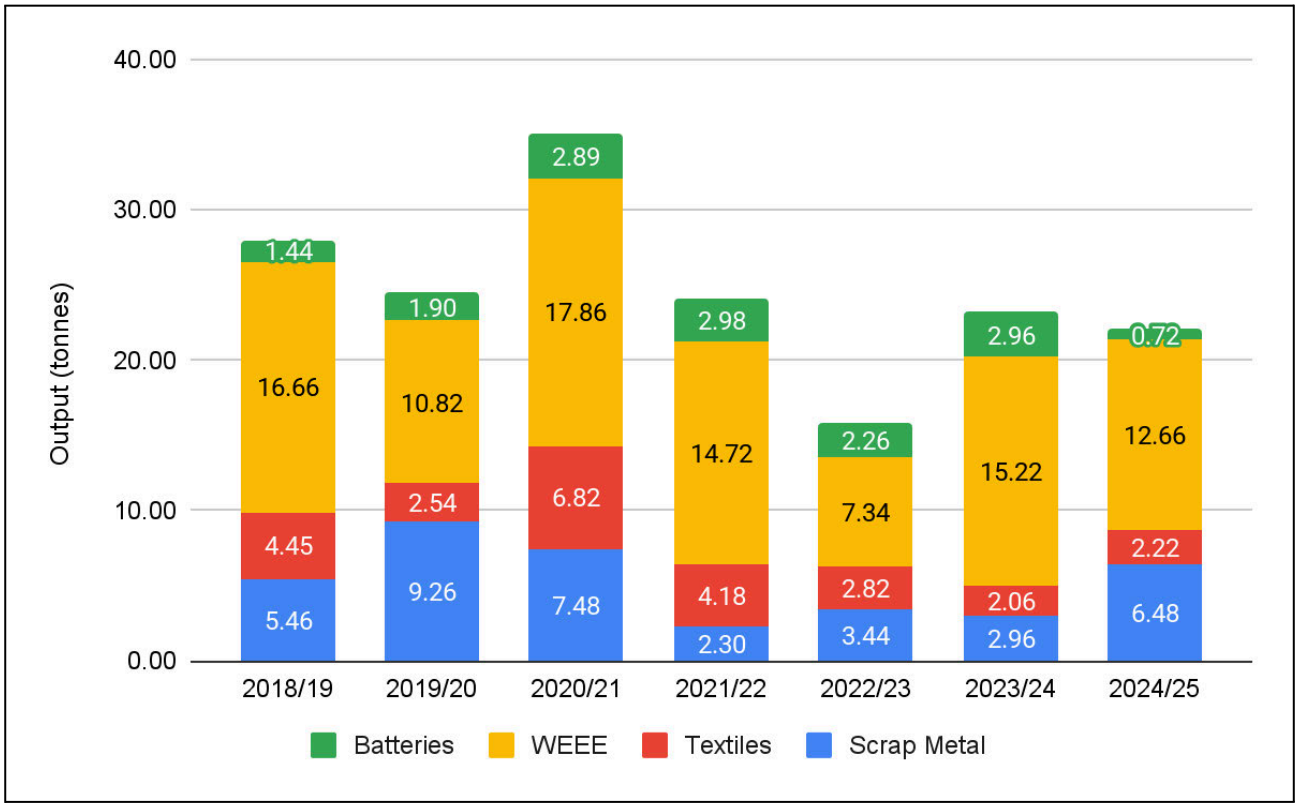
Stafford Waste Transfer Station saw a total of 11,657.44 tonnes of recyclable wastes leave the Site in 2025/26. This represents a 0.19% increase compared to the 11,635.36 tonnes of recyclable waste in 2024/25. Stafford Waste Transfer Station (WTS) exported, in 2024/25:

Movement	Waste	Destination	Tonnes
Output	Batteries - Non haz	Wastecare - Birmingham Depot	0.72
	Metal - Non Haz	Enablelink Ltd	6.48
	Paper	Smurfit Kappa - Dordon Tamworth 1	615.56
		Smurfit Kappa UK Ltd	2,943.62
	Recyclate	Four Ashes MRF	7,909.46
		Suez - Landor Street	166.72
	Textiles - Non-Haz	Jmp Wilcox & Co Ltd - Bilston	2.22
	WEEE 2 Small HH - Non Haz	EMR Darlaston	12.66
Output Total			11,657.44

The following chart shows the paper and card volumes exported from site aggregated into years.

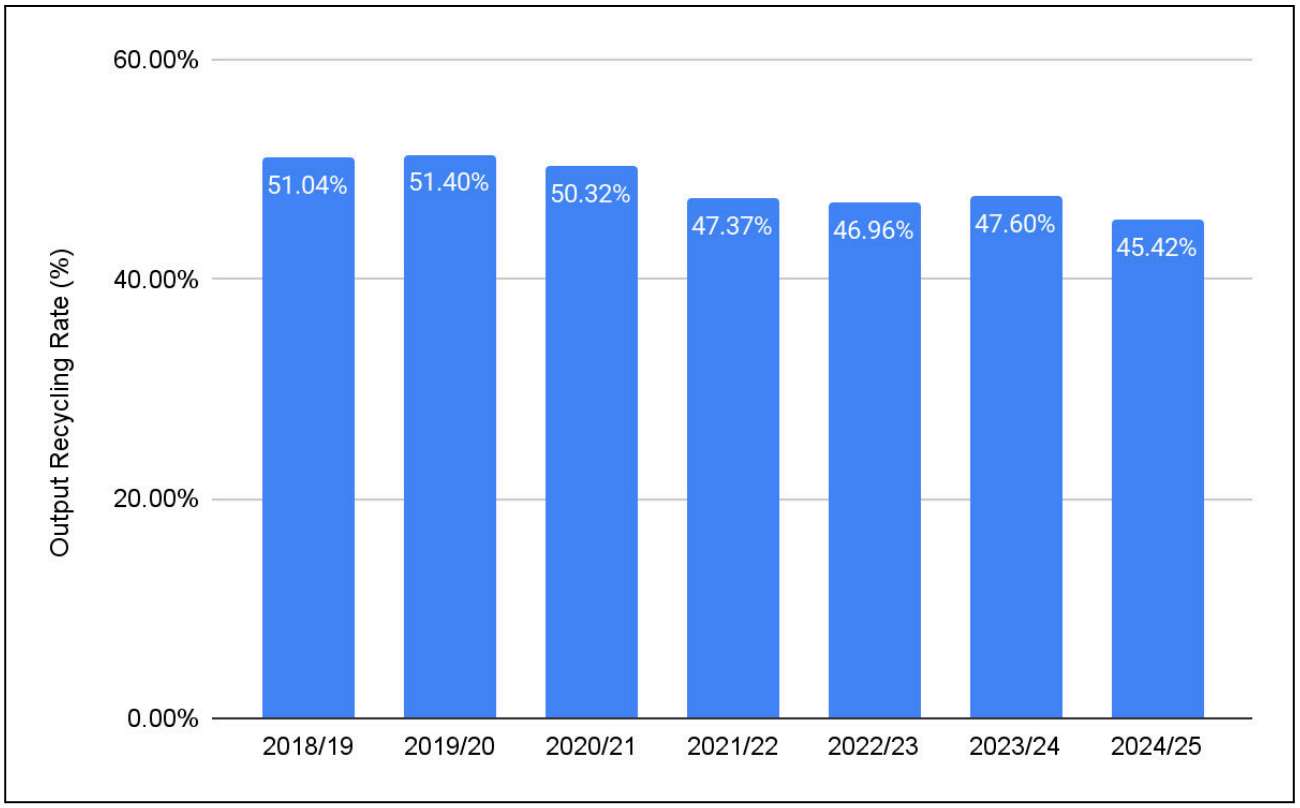


The following chart shows waste volumes to leave Stafford Waste Transfer Station other than DMR and paper by month by each Contract Year.



Waste Outputs Recycling Rate

The recycling rate based on waste outputs from Stafford Waste Transfer Station for 2025/26 was 47.60%, compared to 45.42% in the previous year. The chart below shows the output recycling rate by contract year.



Environmental Performance

Veolia has worked to maintain compliance with all relevant standards at Tollgate Drive:

- The Environment Agency ('EA') have not made a visit to Tollgate Drive in 2025/26, the annual visit is booked in for August 2026.
- Veolia did not receive any complaints in respect of litter in 2025/26.

7. Action Plans

We have either continued or introduced initiatives through 2025/26 which will continue to improve performance in the coming months. We will strive to develop additional initiatives in partnership with SBC to improve service quality throughout 2026/27, as described in the Annual Service Improvement Plan (ASIP) section of this report. Whilst only one new action was implemented during 2024/25 concerning 'containers not returned correctly' complaints, existing measures were also reinforced. These include weekly monitoring and feedback to crews, instructing crews to return to replace bins, and Supervisor visits to witness collections and container returns.

'Containers Not Returned Correctly' Complaints Action Plan

Ref	Action	Owner	Start Date	Implemented?
27	Appointment of Operations Manager and Associated Restructure	GS	October 2024	This will now continue under the guidance of the new Operations Manager.

The following table shows the performance throughout the Contract Year. Efforts will be focused in the coming year on reducing the number of complaints regarding the return of containers.

Target	Target Date	Actual	Achieved
26-30	April - June 2025	43	No
26-30	July - September 2025	39	No
26-30	October - December 2025	31	No
26-30	January - March 2026	43	No

'Missed Collections' Action Plan

Ref	Action	Owner	Start Date	Implemented?
36	Appointment of Operations Manager and Associated Restructure	GS	April 2026	Newly recruited, more experienced Operations Manager starting in March 26

The following table shows that, despite ongoing efforts, missed collections per 100,000 scheduled collections remain too high. We will work with Stafford Borough Council to implement further initiatives to reduce the number of missed collections in 2025/266 as per the ASIP section of this report.

Target	Target Date	Actual	Achieved
26-30	April - June 2025	37	No
26-30	July - September 2025	29	Yes
26-30	October - December 2025	26	Yes
26-30	January - March 2026	110	No

8. Annual Performance 2025/26

Three key performance criteria detailed in Schedule 8 ISFT Updated Performance Framework of the Contract are monitored during the year with potential performance deductions applied annually. These are:

- Contamination in Garden Waste
- Customer Satisfaction
- Household Recycling Rate

Two other key performance criteria are 'Missed Collections' and 'Containers Not Returned to Collection Point', which have potential performance deductions applied on a quarterly basis, which are summarised in the relevant Monthly Report. The performance against these two criteria is also detailed in sections 5 and 7 of this report.

Performance against the annual criteria detailed above are as follows:

Contamination in Garden Waste

As detailed in the 'Performance Summary' presentations provided by Veolia at the Monthly Contract Meetings held with SBC, there have been no instances of garden waste contamination reported for Contract Year 2025/26. The Contamination Rate performance target of less than 8% has therefore been achieved and no Contract Performance Deductions apply.

Household Recycling Rate

Revised Household Recycling Rate Targets were agreed with SBC in August 2021 (Contract Correspondence Reference 9) for Contract Year 2021/22 and ensuing years. The revised targets removed garden waste from the recycling rate calculation to account for the impact of the charged-for-garden waste collection service.

Annual Service Improvement Plan 2025/26

The eighth Annual Service Improvement Plan seeks to continue the good work in certain elements of the collection service delivery whilst looking to make significant progress with elements that have not improved.

Review of Previous ASIP

As has been previously referenced elsewhere in this report, 2025/26 has seen an evolution that will bring long-term benefits to both SBC and Veolia, the progression of the 'additional bins' project, and the strengthening of ties with social housing providers across the Borough.

Proposal	Summary	Achieved?	Comments
Anti-contamination project	• Targeted contamination campaign being developed via Communications meetings. • Dangerous Waste Campaign	Ongoing	This is on-going and is due to be completed in 2026/277
Additional bins project (e.g. Oxford Gardens, Belasis Street, etc.)	• Bins removed from selected areas. • Further areas identified - Veolia working with SBC to remove additional bins. • Echo crew reports analysed in PowerBI to inform future target areas.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing project and will continue in to 2026/27
Missed collections focus	• Performance reviewed daily with the Traffic Office team. • Focus on inconveniencing collection crews to prompt behavioural change.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing project and will continue in to 2026/27
Assist SBC with Environment Act and other service changes	• Veolia will keep SBC informed of legislative developments relating to the Environment Act and associated potential service changes. • Continued support & consultation on the introduction of food waste	Ongoing	This is an ongoing project and will continue in to 2026/27 Foodwaste is due to be rolled out in 2026/27. Discussions and planning is still ongoing.

2026/27 ASIP

The following proposals are made to drive forward the improvements that Veolia and SBC have achieved through close partnership working. The proposals include:

- Introduction of food waste to all residential properties within Stafford Borough
    - Provision of manpower and vehicles to deliver food caddies, liners and leaflets to all domestic properties for the roll out of the food waste service in April/May 2026
    - Provision of manpower and vehicles to deliver the food waste service in April/May 2026.
- Introduction of Communal Food Waste Collections.
    - Ongoing discussions in relation to delivery of liners, caddies & literature -
    - Deliver the roll-out of Food Waste collections to Stafford Borough Schools and Communal properties starting in July 2026 Nearing completion
- Improvement on Containers not Returned Correctly
    - TBT to be created and rolled out to all crews to significantly reduce the number of containers not returned correctly - Ongoing, notice an improvement in reports
    - Continued monitoring of individual crews to obtain consistency of collections.
- Introduction of Anti-contamination Campaign in 2026
    - Targeted campaign to be delivered in 2026 to reduce contamination
- Introduction of analysis and reduction of additional containers
    - Working with refuse crews to establish the number and locations of additional containers.
    - Once identified a process of making residents aware of the non-emptying of the additional bins
    - Additional bins to be removed
- Change the number of days KPI reporting missed collections from 14 days down to 2 days

Agenda Item 7(c)

Air Quality Annual Status Report for Stafford Borough

Committee: Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 3 December 2026

Report of: Gabrielle Whitehouse

Portfolio: Environment

---

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the 2026 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR), that was submitted and approved by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the committee notes the attached ASR and the written response by DEFRA to the submission.

Reasons for Recommendations

2.2 Members are advised to read the ASR to maintain an awareness of local air quality. The report will be published on the SBC website.

3 Key Issues

3.1 The 2026 ASR:

- Presents air quality monitoring data that was collected by the Council in 2025. The data collected shows declining levels of NO2 in the district.
- The submitted report has been reviewed by DEFRA and response provided, largely supportive of the steps taken to date, and providing minor commentary for review by the team.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

Health and Wellbeing

4.1 A high standard of air quality is fundamental to support a healthy environment for the local community.

5 Report Detail

Background

5.1 The Environment Act 1995 places duties on local authorities to manage local air quality. In summary, the Council has a duty to:

- Monitor and review air quality against national standards.
- Declare ‘Air Quality Management Area’ (AQMA) where measurements routinely exceed the national standards and follow up with an action plan to reduce the relevant pollutants.
- Develop an Air Quality Strategy (AQS) if there are no AQMAs in the District.
- Provide an annual report to government with the results and associated actions.

5.2 In practical terms, The Environmental Health team at SBC undertakes monthly sampling of Nitrogen Dioxide and Nitrogen Monoxide - commonly known as “NO_x” through a network of 29 sites around the district, chosen to reflect both background data collection and locations near to roads that are more likely to lead to higher measurements.

Air Quality in Stafford Borough

5.3 Stafford Borough does not have any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) reflecting the generally good air quality in the borough. The report notes generally declining levels of NO_x through its annual monitoring.

5.4 There is no single reason published for the overall decline in recorded NO_x levels, but improvements in motor engine design and emissions restrictions alongside increased use of electric vehicles would be logical contributory factors.

5.5 The overall air quality when looking at NO_x results is positive, with declining levels overall and well below the nationally prescribed standards.

5.6 Local authorities do not directly monitor Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) - a pollutant which is referenced in the ASR, and instead this is monitored nationally though the “Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN)”. Nationally published statistics show SO_2 levels in Stafford Borough to be significantly below nationally prescribed values.

5.7 SBC reports on very small particulate matter called $PM_{2.5}$ using national data sources. The current data shows the levels of $PM_{2.5}$ is below the nationally prescribed standard, but notes a higher background level around motorway junctions.

5.8 Full detail of the results are included in the ASR attached as **Appendix 1**.

Future direction

5.9 NO_x monitoring will continue through the established monitoring programme.

5.10 As there is no active AQMAs then an Air Quality Strategy should now be developed working internal and external partners. This is due to be developed in 2027 and presented to the relevant committee for adoption in due course.

5.11 Nationally, there is an increasing focus on particulate matter and the impact on health that very small particulates (called $PM_{2.5}$) have on health. Whilst the 2025 data shows $PM_{2.5}$ levels to be below national targets, we will review any national requirement for increased monitoring or action in this area.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

None.

6.2 Legal

Air quality falls under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 (Sections 80 to 91). In particular, Section 82 places a duty on local authorities to review air quality within their area ‘from time to time’.

The 2025 Annual Status Report demonstrates Council compliance with this duty.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

6.4 Risk Management

None.

6.5 Equalities and Diversity

None.

6.6 Health

National monitoring requirements are in place to support national and local decision making to protect health from air quality risks to health. Reporting on our actions is important for transparency and to aid future work in this area.

6.7 Climate Change

None.

7 Appendices

Appendix 1: 2025 Air Quality Annual Status Report

Appendix 2: DEFRA feedback on the 2025 ASR

8 Previous Consideration

None.

9 Background Papers

Environment Act 1995

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents

Sulphur dioxide compliance and assessment 2025

www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-pollution-in-the-uk-2025/sulphur-dioxide-so2-compliance-assessment-2025

Particulate matter compliance assessment 2025

www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-pollution-in-the-uk-2025/particulate-matter-as-pm25-compliance-assessment-2025

Contact Officer: Chris Butcher

Telephone Number: 01785 619376

Ward Interest:

Report Track:

Key Decision: No

Stafford
BOROUGH COUNCIL



2026 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)

In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Local Air Quality Management, as amended by the Environment Act 2021

Date: June 2026

Information	<Local Authority Name> Details
Local Authority Officer	Shaun Baker
Department	Regulatory Services
Address	Civic Offices Riverside Stafford
Telephone	01785 619000
E-mail	sbaker@staffordbc.gov.uk
Report Reference Number	2026 ASR
Date	June 2026

Local Responsibilities and Commitment

This ASR was prepared by the Regulatory Service of Stafford Borough Council.

If you have any comments on this ASR please send them to sbaker@staffordbc.gov.uk

Endorsement from the Director of Health and Care, Staffordshire County Council.

Annual Status Report (ASR) 2026 - Air Quality

Endorsement from the Director of Health & Care, Staffordshire County Council.

Poor air quality continues to be a significant public health concern, contributing to a range of health conditions and reduced life expectancy. Local authorities have an important role in identifying areas of exceedance and implementing measures to improve air quality and protect communities.

I welcome this 2026 Annual Status Report from Stafford Borough Council, which demonstrates the Council's ongoing commitment to improving air quality across the borough. The report outlines the progress made in monitoring air pollution and delivering targeted interventions to reduce emissions of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5).

The Council continues to work effectively in partnership with Staffordshire County Council and other stakeholders to deliver a coordinated approach. This includes contributions to countywide initiatives such as the Air Aware programme, promotion of sustainable and active travel, support for electric vehicle infrastructure, and wider transport and climate change strategies.

The requirements of the Environment Act 2021, particularly in relation to PM2.5, further reinforce the importance of sustained local action. Measures to reduce emissions will not only improve air quality but also deliver wider health and environmental benefits.

I endorse this report and support the continued collaborative approach to improving air quality and protecting the health of residents in Stafford Borough.

Dr Richard Harling MBE, FFPH, MBBS, MSc



Director of Health and Care
Staffordshire County Council
[June 2026]

Executive Summary: Air Quality in Our Area

Air Quality in Stafford Borough

Breathing in polluted air affects our health and costs the NHS and our society billions of pounds each year. Air pollution is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer and can cause a range of health impacts, including effects on lung function, exacerbation of asthma, increases in hospital admissions and mortality.

Air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society, children, the elderly, and those with existing heart and lung conditions. Low-income communities are also disproportionately impacted by poor air quality, exacerbating health and social inequalities.

Table ES 1 provides a brief explanation of the key pollutants relevant to Local Air Quality Management and the kind of activities they might arise from.

Table ES 1 - Description of Key Pollutants

Pollutant	Description
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	Nitrogen dioxide is a gas which is generally emitted from high-temperature combustion processes such as road transport or energy generation.
Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)	Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) is a corrosive gas which is predominantly produced from the combustion of coal or crude oil.
Particulate Matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$)	Particulate matter is everything in the air that is not a gas. Particles can come from natural sources such as pollen, as well as human made sources such as smoke from fires, emissions from industry and dust from tyres and brakes. PM_{10} refers to particles under 10 micrometres. Fine particulate matter or $PM_{2.5}$ are particles under 2.5 micrometres.

Data presented in this report was collected during 2025 a time when increased ‘home working’ was prevalent and so may not be fully representative of past and future trends.

The findings of the annual air quality reports produced by Stafford Borough Council since 2004, are that air quality standards are met in Stafford Borough, and that no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) are required. The findings of this 2026 ASR again shows that the air quality standards are complied with and that there is no need to declare an air quality management area in our Borough.

Traffic pollution generated by the M6 motorway around Junction 15 for Stafford and at Clayton continues to cause the greatest concern, however, nitrogen dioxide levels here remain below the annual objective limit.

The construction of the M6 'smart motorways' (4 running lanes) scheme commenced during 2018 and is now completed. 2025 data represent the second full year of the smart motorway. Nitrogen dioxide pollution from the M6 motorway is not getting worse over time, this is likely to be because of improved vehicle design and engine emissions controls combined with the growth of Electric Vehicle (EV) use and the change in 'rush hours' resulting from more home working.

The Council is working in partnership with Staffordshire County Council to significantly grow the availability of public and residential electric vehicle charge-points.

The delayed Borough Council Air Quality strategy considering new timescales for Local Government National Devolution is to be published in 2026.

Actions to Improve Air Quality

Whilst air quality has improved significantly in recent decades, there are some regional impacts where local action is recommended to maintain and continue to protect people and the environment from the effects of air pollution.

Conclusions and Priorities

Stafford Borough Council does not have any Air Quality Management Areas however it remains important that improvements to air quality are pursued wherever possible to maintain this position. Stafford Borough Council has important regional motorway and trunk routes and as a result is keen to identify systems that will improve transboundary pollution levels, for this reason the Council is producing an Air Quality Strategy Document 2026-2028 which takes into account Local Council Devolution proposals and is a full member of the Staffordshire ECO stars initiative.

In March 2019 the Council applied for and was awarded a £1million grant from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles in partnership with Stoke on Trent City Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council to provide 30 shared of the fastest rapid electric vehicle chargers primarily for the hackney carriage / private hire trade. Low emission public transport, such as electric taxis, are important both to reduce traffic emissions but also to offer and promote new cleaner technologies for all to use. This project has now delivered 10 chargers in the Borough (pictured below) and incentives via Taxi fleet licensing is ongoing to promote interest in low emission vehicles from the Taxi trade.



Conclusions and Priorities

- The air quality in Stafford Borough does not exceed the air quality standards, and traffic pollution has not worsened, there remains however significant pressures which may result in future challenges. Stafford Borough Council is undergoing a time of considerable housing growth and commercial investment with the added prospect of a HS2a hub station and associated Stafford Gateway Project business growth despite the cancellation of the main route through the Borough. The local traffic that this growth will generate needs to be managed so that the burden of extra vehicles does not result in a significant deterioration of our local air quality.

- The Western Distributer Road (Doxey) in Stafford opened in 2021 and is relieving traffic congestion at busy times, furthermore this will link with the Stafford Gateway Project (Levelling up fund business/leisure hub) based around the new HS2 station.
- All planning applications for new housing and commerce are assessed for the air quality impacts, and it remains a Council priority to consider air quality impacts for all new industrial developments.
- Motorway emissions remain a significant concern for Stafford Borough, the construction of the M6 smart motorway scheme is now completed, it has delivered extra capacity and evidence (previous ASR reports) suggests that traffic emissions through the Borough have stabilised.
- It remains likely that the large urban area of Stoke on Trent and Newcastle under Lyme will enforce a low emission vehicle zone, this may have the effect of diverting traffic onto neighbouring roads in Stafford Borough. Stafford Borough Council air quality monitoring stations have been positioned to target this potential risk.
- Air Quality and air pollutant emissions are included in the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

How to get Involved

Public participation in the national and local air quality issues is vital to maintaining and improving the current standards. In particular, road journeys, transport mode choices, commuting methods and alternative travel methods can have significant local effects. Travel to and from and around schools is a priority and surveys have been undertaken in partnership with Staffordshire County Council and the University of the third age (U3A) group aimed at engaging children and parents in reducing school drop off emissions. Similarly, there is a national focus on solid fuel home heating emissions with new regulation proposed.

The following bodies can all help to improve the general understanding of local air quality issues and how to effect positive changes.

Stafford Borough Council Operations
Planning and Development Control

Staffordshire County Council

Stoke on Trent City Council

UK Air Defra.

North Staffordshire and Stafford Friends of the Earth

Public Health England

U3A University of the Third Age. West Midlands. Stafford Branch.

Table of Contents

Local Responsibilities and Commitment i
Executive Summary: Air Quality in Our Area iii
Air Quality in Stafford Borough iii
Actions to Improve Air Quality iv
Conclusions and Priorities iv
How to get Involved vi
1 Local Air Quality Management 1
2 Actions to Improve Air Quality 2
2.1 Air Quality Management Areas 2
2.2 Progress and Impact of Measures to address Air Quality in Stafford Borough Council 4
2.3 $PM_{2.5}$ – Local Authority Approach to Reducing Emissions and/or Concentrations 7
3 Air Quality Monitoring Data and Comparison with Air Quality Objectives and National Compliance 9
3.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken 9
3.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites 9
3.1.2 Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites 9
3.2 Individual Pollutants 9
3.2.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) 9
3.2.2 Particulate Matter (PM_{10}) 10
3.2.3 Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$) 10
3.2.4 Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) 10
Appendix A: Monitoring Results 11
Appendix B: Full Monthly Diffusion Tube Results for 2025 22
Appendix C: Supporting Technical Information / Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC 24
New or Changed Sources Identified Within Stafford Borough Council During 2025 24
Additional Air Quality Works Undertaken by Stafford Borough Council During 2025 24
QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring 24
Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors 27
NO_2 Fall-off with Distance from the Road 28
QA/QC of Automatic Monitoring 28
PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ Monitoring Adjustment 28
Automatic Monitoring Annualisation 28
NO_2 Fall-off with Distance from the Road 29
Summary of Low Cost Air Quality Sensor Monitoring 30
Appendix D: Map(s) of Monitoring Locations and AQMAs 31

Appendix E: Summary of Air Quality Objectives in England 50
Glossary of Terms 51
References 52

Figures

Figure A.1 – Trends in Annual Mean NO_2 Concentrations.....19
Figure A.2 – Trends in Number of NO_2 1-Hour Means > 200µg/m^3.....21
Figure A.3 – Trends in Annual Mean PM_{10} Concentrations.....21
Figure A.4 – Trends in Number of 24-Hour Mean PM_{10} Results > 50µg/m^3.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Figure A.5 – Trends in Annual Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Concentrations. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Figure D.1 – Map of Non-Automatic Monitoring Site.....31

Tables

Table 2.1 – Declared Air Quality Management Areas.....3
Table 2.2 – Progress on Measures to Improve Air Quality.....6
Table A.1 – Details of Automatic Monitoring Sites..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Table A.2 – Details of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites.....11
Table A.3 – Annual Mean NO_2 Monitoring Results: Automatic Monitoring (µg/m^3).....14
Table A.4 – Annual Mean NO_2 Monitoring Results: Non-Automatic Monitoring (µg/m^3).....15
Table A.5 – 1-Hour Mean NO_2 Monitoring Results, Number of 1-Hour Means > 200µg/m^3 21
Table A.6 – Annual Mean PM_{10} Monitoring Results (µg/m^3) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Table A.7 – 24-Hour Mean PM_{10} Monitoring Results, Number of PM_{10} 24-Hour Means > 50µg/m^3 ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Table A.8 – Annual Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Monitoring Results (µg/m^3) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Table A.9 – SO_2 2025 Monitoring Results, Number of Relevant Instances .....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Table B.1 – NO_2 2025 Diffusion Tube Results (µg/m^3).....22

Table C.1 – Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in µg/m^3).....27
Table C.2 – Bias Adjustment Factor.....27
Table C.3 – Local Bias Adjustment Calculation.....28
Table C.4 – Non-Automatic NO_2 Fall off With Distance Calculations (concentrations presented in µg/m^3).....28
Table C.5 – Automatic NO_2 Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in µg/m^{3}28
Table C.6 – Automatic PM_{10} Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in µg/m^3 28

Table C.7 – Automatic $PM_{2.5}$ Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in $\mu g/m^3$ 28
Table C.8 – Automatic NO_2 Fall off With Distance Calculations (concentrations presented in $\mu g/m^3$) 29
Table C.9– Details of Low Cost Sensor Sites 30
Table C.10 – Monthly Air Quality Sensor Monitoring Results 30

Table E.1 – Air Quality Objectives in England 50

1 Local Air Quality Management

This report provides an overview of air quality in Stafford Borough during 2025. It fulfils the requirements of Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995), as amended by the Environment Act (2021), and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents.

The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where an exceedance is considered likely the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in order to achieve and maintain the objectives and the dates by which each measure will be carried out. This Annual Status Report (ASR) is an annual requirement showing the strategies employed by Stafford Borough Council to improve air quality and any progress that has been made.

The statutory air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in England are presented in Table E.1.

2 Actions to Improve Air Quality

2.1 Air Quality Management Areas

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are declared when there is an exceedance or likely exceedance of an air quality objective. After declaration, the authority should prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months. The AQAP should specify how air quality targets will be achieved and maintained and provide dates by which measures will be carried out.

Stafford Borough Council currently does not have any declared AQMAs. A local Air Quality Strategy is under development pending local government reorganisation to prevent and reduce polluting activities.

Table 2.1 – Declared Air Quality Management Areas

NIL

2.2 Progress and Impact of Measures to address Air Quality in Stafford Borough Council

Defra's appraisal of last year's ASR concluded:

1. SBC have included the signed letter from the director of public health. This is commended and welcomed. (*Noted*)

2. SBC have provided good maps of all monitoring locations within the district. This should continue on future ASRs. (*Noted*)

3. Although SBC clearly state that the national bias adjustment factor has been applied to the 2024 monitoring data, it is recommended to include a justification for this choice of factor in future reports. (*Noted- actioned*)

4. SBC have provided a robust and detailed table of actions undertaken in the area to reduce PM2.5 emissions in SBC. This is welcomed.

5. It would be preferred if the annual NO2 concentration of each monitoring location was shown in trend graphs. This is because the average NO2 concentrations across all monitoring sites (currently presented) are impacted by the removal and addition of diffusion tube monitoring sites over the years. (*Noted*)

6. It would be beneficial if SBC included a copy of the national bias adjustment spreadsheet to document how the factor was calculated in future reports. (*Noted-actioned)*

7. There are minor formatting issues on some of the tables. Table 2.4 - reducing PM2.5 emissions in the area, has an incorrectly formatted table which should be reviewed in further submissions. *(Noted- actioned*)

Stafford Borough Council has taken forward measures during the current reporting 2025 year in pursuit of improving local air quality. Details of all measures completed, in progress or planned are set out in Table 2.2. Where there have been, or continue to be, barriers restricting the implementation of the measure, these are also presented within Table 2.2.

Stafford Borough Council worked to implement these measures in partnership with the following stakeholders during 2025/26:

- Staffordshire District and Borough Local Authorities via the Staffordshire Air Quality Forum (SAQF)
- Staffordshire County Council and Public Health England
- Highways England (National Highways)

Table 2.2 – Progress on Measures to Improve Air Quality

Measure No.	Measure Title	Category	Classification	Year Measure Introduced in AQAP	Estimated / Actual Completion Date	Organisations Involved	Funding Source	Funding Status	Estimated Cost of Measure	Measure Status	Reduction in Pollutant / Emission from Measure	Key Performance Indicator	Progress to Date	Comments / Barriers to Implementation
1	Air Quality incorporated into Climate Change Strategy	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Air Quality Planning and Policy Guidance	2019	2022 ongoing	Local Authority Environmental Health, Local Authority Transport Dept.	Local Authority	Not Funded	< £10k	Implementation	NIL	NIL	Air Quality incorporated into Climate Change Priority	Achieved and ongoing
2	TAXI Electrification	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Taxi emission incentives	2019	2028	Local Authority Environmental Health, Local Authority Transport Dept.	OLEV	Funded	£500k - £1 million	Completed	reduced vehicle emissions	target to promote EV TAXI take-up	Finding suitable sites with TAXI trade	Funding and trade agreed TAXI Licensing changes.
3	ECO STARS (Staffordhire)	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Driver training and ECO driving aids	2015	2028	Local Authority Environmental Health, Local Authority Transport Dept.	DEFRA	Partially Funded	£10k - 50k	Implementation	Reduced vehicle emissions	NIL	Future funding	First phase successful, second phase on-going

2.3 $PM_{2.5}$ – Local Authority Approach to Reducing Emissions and/or Concentrations

As detailed in Policy Guidance LAQM.PG22 (Chapter 8) and the Air Quality Strategy, local authorities are expected to work towards reducing emissions and/or concentrations of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$). There is clear evidence that $PM_{2.5}$ (particulate matter smaller 2.5 micrometres) has a significant impact on human health, including premature mortality, allergic reactions, and cardiovascular diseases.

The Stafford Borough Council relevant information is shown below with measures to address $PM_{2.5}$:

Stafford Borough Council is semi-rural in nature and the PM 2.5 background data for our Borough is given below:

- Stafford BC average concentration 2021- **7.2** µg m-3
- Stafford BC maximum concentration 2021 (1Kmx1Km) centred at M6 Junction 15 and also at M6 J13 is **8.9** µg m-3 of which it is estimated 50% is from secondary sources such as transboundary and natural causes.

Local actions to maintain and improve upon this position will focus mainly on the estimated 50% ‘man-made’ contributions in the short term over which there is some local control, as below:

- Industrial and commercial emissions.
    - Planning controls for new establishments and regulation of existing with emphasis on combustion activities.
- Residential Heating (in particular solid fuel use).
    - There are no smoke control areas in the Borough and there is not significant solid fuel use, however advice on proper usage and fuel selection is available on the Council website.
- Traffic engine emissions and tyre wear.
    - Links to traffic management actions already scheduled against other pollutants.
- The Air Aware project (phase 2) ran until March 2023 with Defra funding, however The Air Aware project continues with joint funding from SCC Public Health and Connectivity Teams on a recurring basis.

- The Electric Vehicle project Staffordshire Local Authorities) who are working in a consortium to install EV charging hubs for people without easy access to EV charging where they live via LEVI funding.

3 Air Quality Monitoring Data and Comparison with Air Quality Objectives and National Compliance

This section sets out the monitoring undertaken within 2025 by Stafford Borough Council and how it compares with the relevant air quality objectives. In addition, monitoring results are presented for a five-year period between 2021 and 2025 to allow monitoring trends to be identified and discussed.

3.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken

3.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

Stafford Borough Council undertook no automatic (continuous) monitoring.

3.1.2 Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Stafford Borough Council undertook non- automatic (i.e. passive) monitoring of NO_2 at 29 sites during 2025. Table A.2 in Appendix A presents the details of the non-automatic sites.

Maps showing the location of the monitoring sites are provided in Appendix D. Further details on Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) for the diffusion tubes, including bias adjustments and any other adjustments applied (e.g. annualisation and/or distance correction), are included in Appendix C.

3.2 Individual Pollutants

The air quality monitoring results presented in this section are, where relevant, adjusted for bias, annualisation (where the annual mean data capture is below 75% and greater than 25%), and distance correction. Further details on adjustments are provided in Appendix C.

3.2.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)

There are no measured exceedences of the Air Quality Standard for Nitrogen Dioxide concentrations in air in Stafford Borough in the year 2025.

Table A.3 and Table A.4 in Appendix A compare the ratified and adjusted monitored NO_2 annual mean concentrations for the past five years with the air quality objective of 40µg/m^3. Note that the concentration data presented represents the concentration at the location of the monitoring site, following the application of bias adjustment and annualisation, as required (i.e. the values are exclusive of any consideration to fall-off with distance adjustment).

For diffusion tubes, the full 2025 dataset of monthly mean values is provided in Appendix B. Note that the concentration data presented in Table B.1 includes distance corrected values, only where relevant.

Table A.5 in Appendix A compares the ratified continuous monitored NO_2 hourly mean concentrations for the past five years with the air quality objective of 200µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year.

It is important to note that for the 2025 monitoring period there was significant disruption of the major road networks around some of the monitoring sites leading to abnormal traffic flows over the course of the year as traffic diverted, in particular sites 4 (Meir Heath), 21(A34),22(A34), M6 (Clayton),M6.2(Clayton),M6.3(Clayton) and M6.4(Clayton) and 6 (Baswich) were impacted, the significant roadworks has resulted in carriageway flow changes affecting most sites, revealed as monthly result variances greater than expected in past years . Site 40 was impacted by plant overgrowth which has now been cleared.

3.2.2 Particulate Matter (PM_{10})

NIL

3.2.3 Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)

NIL

3.2.4 Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)

NIL

Appendix A: Monitoring Results

Table A.1 – Details of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Diffusion Tube ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m) (1)	Distance to kerb of nearest road (m) (2)	Tube Co-located with a Continuous Analyser?	Tube Height (m)
1	1	Kerbside	390220	325530	NO2	nil	30.0	5.0	No	2.0
2	2	Kerbside	390350	325410	NO2	nil	20.0	15.0	No	2.0
3	3	Other	390130	321700	NO2	nil	20.0	0.0	No	2.0
4	4	Kerbside	392914	340076	NO2	nil	50.0	0.0	No	2.0
5	5	Other	390231	334298	NO2	nil	0.0	0.0	No	2.0
6	6	Kerbside	394471	321462	NO2	nil	10.0	0.0	No	2.0
8	8	Kerbside	385680	342220	NO2	nil	15.0	0.0	No	2.0
13	13	Other	390310	332960	NO2	nil	50.0	1.0	No	2.0

Diffusion Tube ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m) [1]	Distance to kerb of nearest road (m) [2]	Tube Co-located with a Continuous Analyser?	Tube Height (m)
14	14	Other	390090	333150	NO2	nil	0.0	1.0	No	2.0
16	16	Kerbside	388666	335429	NO2	nil	15.0	0.0	No	2.0
21	21	Kerbside	391105	328693	NO2	nil	60.0	0.0	No	2.0
22	22	Kerbside	393518	321916	NO2	nil	100.0	0.0	No	2.0
31, 32	32	Kerbside	391581	320743	NO2	nil	15.0	0.1	No	2.0
33	33	Kerbside	392154	319970	NO2	nil	15.0	5.0	No	2.0
36	36	Kerbside	394848	341145	NO2	nil	40.0	0.0	No	2.0
40	40	Other	384920	341520	NO2	nil	10.0	10.0	No	2.0
ST	ST	Kerbside	390050	333270	NO2	nil	15.0	0.5	No	2.0
BB1	BB1	Kerbside	394830	341060	NO2	nil	35.0	0.0	No	2.0
BB2	BB2	Kerbside	394290	341750	NO2	nil	30.0	0.0	No	2.0

Diffusion Tube ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m) (1)	Distance to kerb of nearest road (m) (2)	Tube Co-located with a Continuous Analyser?	Tube Height (m)
BM	BM	Kerbside	391561	390692	NO2	nil	30.0	0.0	No	2.0
TR	TR	Kerbside	386450	341230	NO2	nil	25.0	0.0	No	2.0
TITT	TITT	Kerbside	387350	338490	NO2	nil	10.0	0.0	No	2.0
M6	M6	Kerbside	385080	342022	NO2	nil	20.0	0.0	No	2.0
M6.2	M6.2	Other	385096	342012	NO2	nil	0.0	25.0	No	2.0
E1	E1	Kerbside	383166	329202	NO2	nil	10.0	0.0	No	2.0
M6 3	M6 3	Other	385076	342092	NO2	nil	20.0	25.0	No	2.0
M6.4	M6.4	Roadside	394408	323726	NO2	nil	20.0	5.0	No	2.0

Notes:

(1) 0m if the monitoring site is at a location of exposure (e.g. installed on the façade of a residential property).

(2) N/A if not applicable.

Table A.2 – Annual Mean NO_2 Monitoring Results: Automatic Monitoring (µg/m^3)

NIL

Table A.3 – Annual Mean NO_2 Monitoring Results: Non-Automatic Monitoring (µg/m^3)

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) (1)	Valid Data Capture 2025 (%) (2)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	390220	325530	Kerbside		100.0	27.8	20.0	29.8	26.8	20.8
2	390350	325410	Kerbside		90.4	23.4	22.0	30.4	23.6	22.9
3	390130	321700	Other		100.0	33.9	17.0	24.0	20.2	27.8
4	392914	340076	Kerbside		100.0	24.6	23.0	22.5	15.4	17.8
5	390231	334298	Other		90.4	27.1	34.0	33.1	27.2	28.8
6	394471	321462	Kerbside		100.0	27.2	23.0	31.5	24.1	28.3
8	385680	342220	Kerbside		100.0	31.3	28.0	33.5	30.2	21.4
13	390310	332960	Other		92.3	27.6	17.0	16.9	18.3	19.0
14	390090	333150	Other		82.7	18.1	15.0	22.1	19.0	24.9
16	388666	335429	Kerbside		92.3	33.9	17.0	26.4	21.7	20.5

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) (1)	Valid Data Capture 2025 (%) (2)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
21	391105	328693	Kerbside		82.7	23.1	**NIL**	21.5	18.0	23.7
22	393518	321916	Kerbside		100.0	23.4	24.0	25.2	20.9	27.7
31, 32	391581	320743	Kerbside		100.0	31.6	22.0	26.6	19.6	19.8
33	392154	319970	Kerbside		100.0	25.2	26.0	30.1	20.9	20.8
36	394848	341145	Kerbside		100.0	20.9	18.0	34.6	19.8	19.8
40	384920	341520	Other		100.0	15.1	17.0	27.4	20.9	9.2
ST	390050	333270	Kerbside		92.3	**40.6**	30.0	15.1	24.8	28.0
BB1	394830	341060	Kerbside		82.7	22.7	22.0	29.1	19.8	24.0
BB2	394290	341750	Kerbside		100.0	32.2	19.0	25.0	22.0	23.8
BM	391561	390692	Kerbside		92.3	23.4	20.0	26.4	18.5	23.9
TR	386450	341230	Kerbside		90.4	21.2	17.0	26.8	22.2	17.5
TITT	387350	338490	Kerbside		100.0	30.6	19.0	21.6	26.7	24.6

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) (1)	Valid Data Capture 2025 (%) (2)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
M6	385080	342022	Kerbside		100.0	26.8	26.0	22.6	25.2	25.6
M6.2	385096	342012	Other		100.0	28.1	23.0	31.1	20.3	16.8
E1	383166	329202	Kerbside		100.0	26.0	20.0	20.4	21.5	17.0
M6 3	385076	342092	Other		100.0	24.0	28.0	20.7	21.1	19.1
M6.4	394408	323726	Roadside		82.7		**new**	27.9	35.2	23.5

☒ **Annualisation has been conducted where data capture is <75% and >25% in line with LAQM.TG22**

☒ **Diffusion tube data has been bias adjusted**

☒ **Reported concentrations are those at the location of the monitoring site (bias adjusted and annualised, as required), i.e. prior to any fall-off with distance correction.**

Notes:

The annual mean concentrations are presented as µg/m^3.

Exceedances of the NO_2 annual mean objective of 40µg/m^3 are shown in bold.

NO_2 annual means exceeding 60µg/m^3, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO_2 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

Means for diffusion tubes have been corrected for bias. All means have been "annualised" as per LAQM.TG22 if valid data capture for the full calendar year is less than 75%. See Appendix C for details.

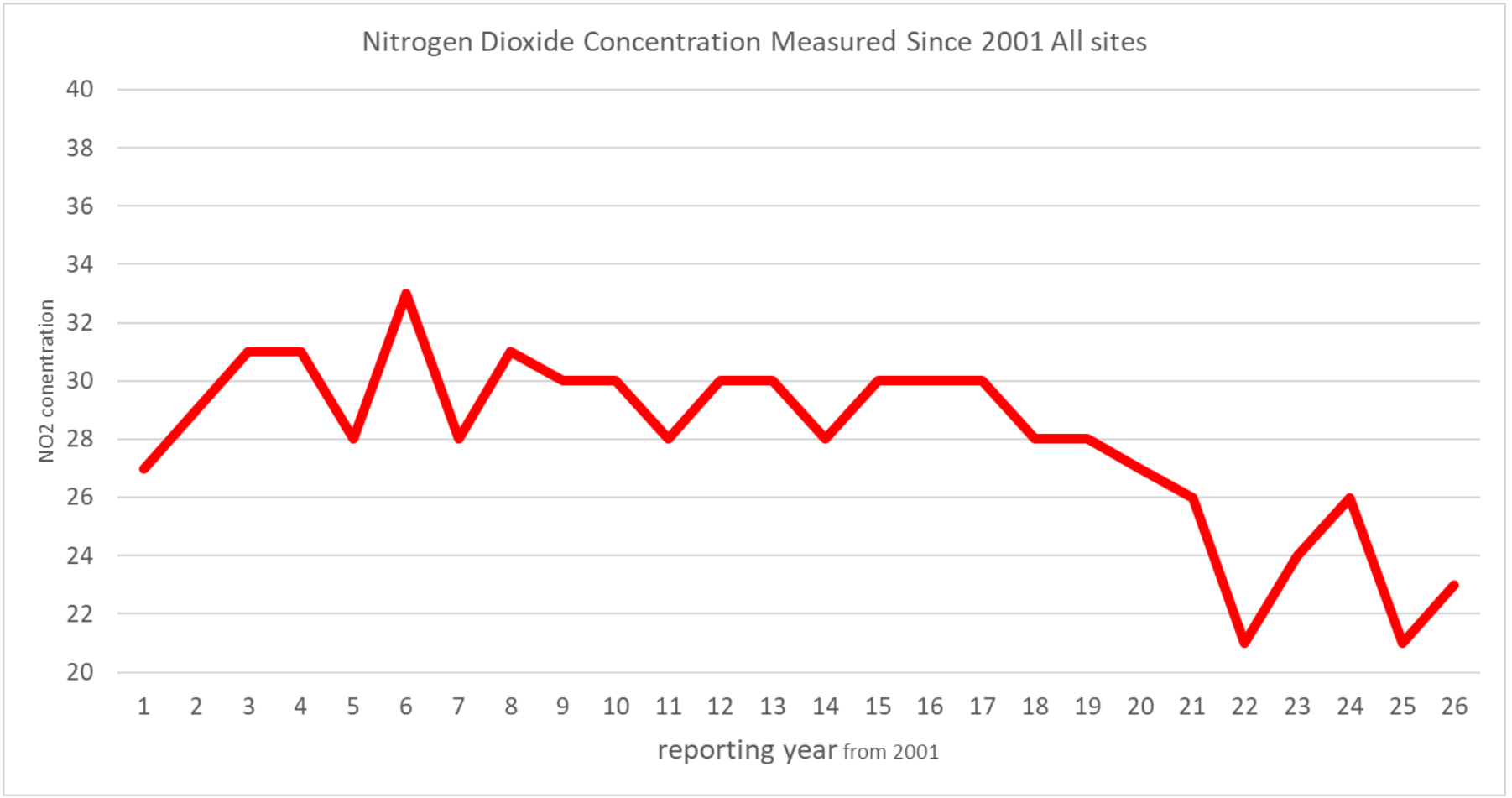
Concentrations are those at the location of monitoring and not those following any fall-off with distance adjustment.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

Figure A.1 – Trends in Annual Mean NO_2 Concentrations

The graph below shows the average Nitrogen Dioxide concentrations measured at all sites commencing year 2001. The action limit is 40



The graph below shows how the Nitrogen dioxide concentrations for motorway sites and large trunk roads in the Borough compare over time commencing year 2000

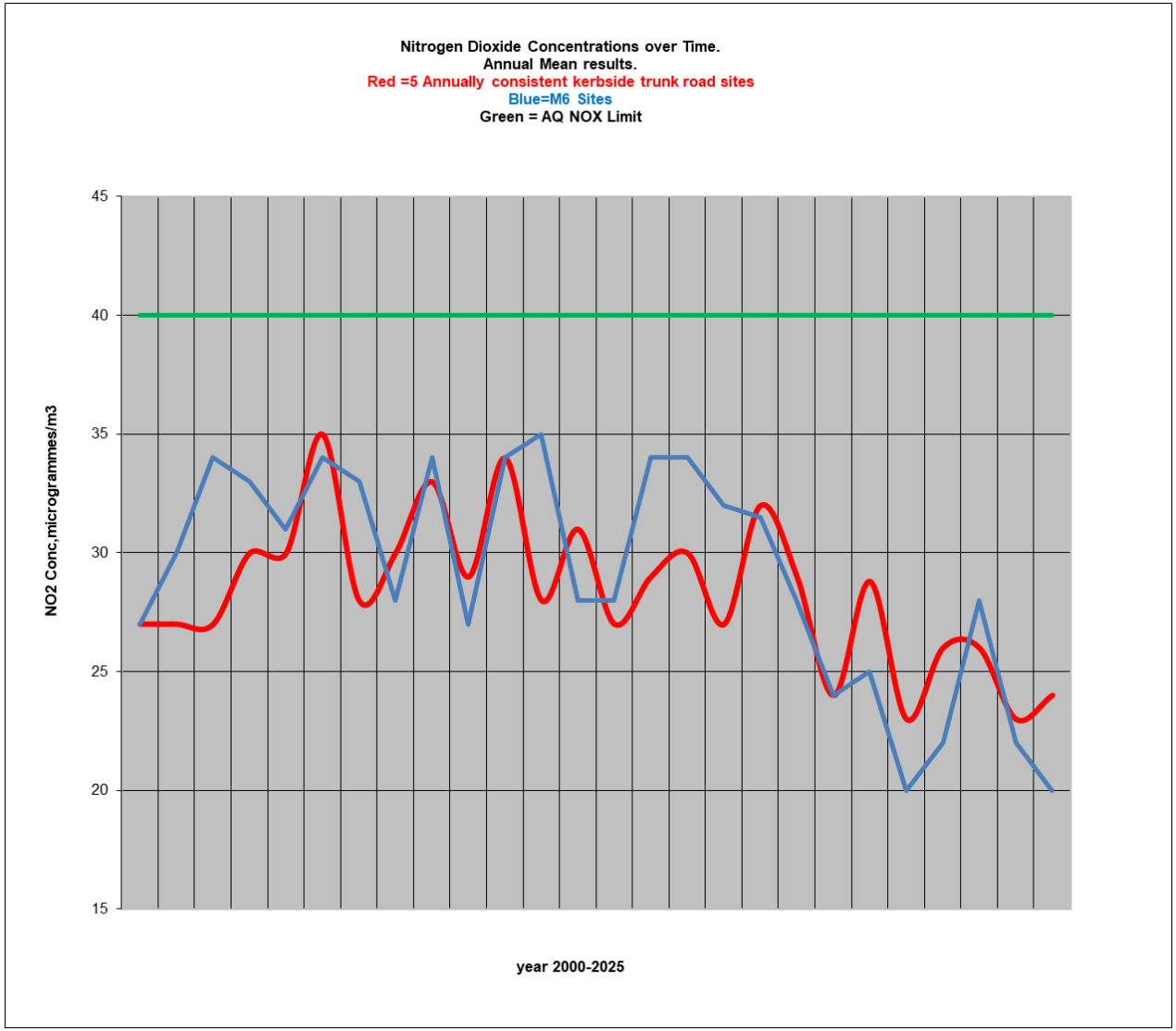


Table A.4 – 1-Hour Mean NO_2 Monitoring Results, Number of 1-Hour Means > 200µg/m^3

NIL

Figure A.2 – Trends in Number of NO_2 1-Hour Means > 200µg/m^3

NIL

Figure A.3 – Trends in Annual Mean PM_{10} Concentrations

NIL

Appendix B: Full Monthly Diffusion Tube Results for 2025

Table B.1 – NO_2 2025 Diffusion Tube Results ($\mu g/m^3$)

DT ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Mean: Raw Data	Annual Mean: Annualised and Bias Adjusted <(x.x)>	Annual Mean: Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure	Comment
1	390220	325530	18.6	20.0	22.9	21.8	11.0	32.2	24.2	22.6	20.3	**40.5**	**47.8**	25.8	25.6	20.8		
2	390350	325410	16.6	17.2	26.1	20.3	20.6	29.5	28.2	30.1	43.4	34.6	44.2		28.3	22.9		
3	390130	321700	**47.3**	**49.9**	12.9	39.1	16.9	21.0	21.9	26.8	**60.5**	**46.1**	**61.2**	8.2	34.3	27.8		
4	392914	340076	10.8	25.7	17.3	13.1	8.4	17.5	11.3	11.5	41.9	36.6	**47.1**	23.2	22.0	17.8		
5	390231	334298	**45.8**	33.5	24.6	**46.3**	20.4	**59.5**	21.5	16.6	28.1	**46.5**	**48.1**		35.5	28.8		
6	394471	321462	47.3	**61.4**	20.0	26.6	21.4	**47.3**	12.7	**53.1**	**62.3**	36.7	5.6	25.4	35.0	28.3		
8	385680	342220	19.2	30.4	24.9	27.7	26.1	12.9	19.6	30.3	15.4	29.7	**48.7**	31.7	26.4	21.4		
13	390310	332960	8.9	15.1	50.0	18.3	13.9	5.1	19.0	13.4	33.7	**54.6**		25.5	23.4	19.0		
14	390090	333150	10.4	15.1	21.8	22.4		22.0	19.4	**59.5**	**64.9**	**49.4**		22.7	30.8	24.9		
16	388666	335429	19.0	16.7	21.5	12.6	**46.2**	9.6	20.4	17.7	**43.5**	22.7		**48.2**	25.3	20.5		
21	391105	328693	15.2	23.6	31.0	9.8	**51.9**	22.6	19.7	**48.4**	**55.5**	14.5			29.2	23.7		
22	393518	321916	15.1	52.2	27.3	5.9	34.6	**52.9**	18.1	**52.7**	18.4	**53.2**	**40.6**	**39.7**	34.2	27.7		duplicate
31	391581	320743	19.2	**46.2**	14.6	13.5	12.7	20.4	18.9	27.3	**46.7**	8.6	34.7	23.7	-	-		duplicate
32	391581	320743	19.5	**58.4**	12.5	21.1	13.7	22.0	17.8	24.7	35.9	9.9	38.3	25.6	24.4	19.8		
33	392154	319970	23.6	**56.5**	16.4	11.3	15.1	28.5	33.0	35.3	50.1	10.5		27.4	25.7	20.8		
36	394848	341145	19.6	27.2	23.4	20.0	12.8	28.9	11.7	**51.7**	**43.5**	11.4	20.2	23.4	24.5	19.8		
40	384920	341520	9.7	10.0	14.8	14.5	7.4	13.5	9.1	9.0	9.2	11.1	19.3	9.1	11.4	9.2		
ST	390050	333270	15.4	I/S	36.8	26.8	16.5	**53.8**	27.8	**55.2**	**62.2**	10.8	**50.9**	24.4	34.6	28.0		
BB1	394830	341060	10.4	30.4	22.8	16.6	26.5	**41.8**	1.3		**58.9**	44.0	44.0		29.7	24.0		

DT ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Mean: Raw Data	Annual Mean: Annualised and Bias Adjusted <(x.x)>	Annual Mean: Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure	Comment
BB2	394290	341750	14.3	37.1	26.3	17.8	12.2	20.3	18.1	18.6	**48.5**	**57.5**	**57.5**	23.7	29.3	23.8		
BM	391561	390692	**49.4**	**47.0**		14.6	14.4	18.2	18.0	21.4	26.9	37.8	35.1	**42.4**	29.6	23.9		
TR	386450	341230	37.6	16.1	13.7	22.4	12.7	18.2	18.8	14.3	**49.0**	11.1	24.1		21.6	17.5		
TITT	387350	338490	11.3	17.8	23.8	17.1	16.0	12.4	17.0	37.9	**59.9**	10.9	44.9		30.3	24.6		
M6	385080	342022	20.3	28.4	35.2	25.0	22.0	**39.5**	27.3	19.7	24.6	**53.0**	39.0	**44.9**	31.6	25.6		
M6.2	385096	342012	13.3	18.2	45.2	17.8	17.0	21.4	16.1	14.6	19.1	11.4	30.0	25.3	20.8	16.8		
E1	383166	329202	20.3	27.6	21.3	13.5	27.0	19.5	20.2	34.3	**42.5**	10.2	6.3	9.3	21.0	17.0		
M6 3	385076	342092	16.7	23.9	18.9	32.6	18.1	28.6	23.3	19.9	24.9	12.5	**39.5**	24.7	23.6	19.1		
M6.4	394408	323726	20.6	30.1	24.0	22.1	25.4	14.7	34.3	29.2	33.5	**56.2**			29.0	23.5		

☒ **All erroneous data has been removed from the NO_2 diffusion tube dataset presented in Table B.1**

☒ **Annualisation has been conducted where data capture is <75% and >25% in line with LAQM.TG22**

☐ **Local bias adjustment factor used**

☒ **National bias adjustment factor used**

☒ **Where applicable, data has been distance corrected for relevant exposure in the final column**

☒ Stafford BC **confirm that all 2025 diffusion tube data has been uploaded to the Diffusion Tube Data Entry System**

Notes: ***The Borough was undergoing significant roadworks during 2025 likely resulting in greater monthly traffic volume changes on a monthly basis.***

Exceedances of the NO_2 annual mean objective of 40µg/m^3 are shown in **bold**.

NO_2 annual means exceeding 60µg/m^3, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO_2 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

See Appendix C for details on bias adjustment and annualisation.

Appendix C: Supporting Technical Information / Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC

New or Changed Sources Identified Within Stafford Borough Council During 2025

Stafford Borough Council has not identified any new sources relating to air quality within the reporting year of 2025

Additional Air Quality Works Undertaken by Stafford Borough Council During 2025

Stafford Borough Council has not completed any additional works within the reporting year of 2025

QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring

Monitoring has been completed in adherence with the 2025 Diffusion Tube Monitoring Calendar.

LABORATORY QA/QC 2025

Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire Highways Laboratory

NO_2 diffusion tube analysis QC results – April 2026 Summary

AIR PT Scheme (LGC)

Results for each round are classified on z-scores for each tube as SATISFACTORY (≤2), QUESTIONABLE (between 2 and <3) and UNSATISFACTORY (>3).

For each round, two sets of tubes are received from LGC, and each analysed by a different member of staff, to aid with QC and training. One set of results is submitted for the AIR PT performance summary on the Defra website. The full results for both sets of tubes are given below.

PT Rounds during 2024

- Round 62 – Feb 2024. 100% satisfactory results.
- Round 63 – June 2024. 100% satisfactory results.
- Round 65 – Sept 2024. 100% satisfactory results.
- Round 66 – Dec 2024. 100% satisfactory results.

PT Rounds during 2025

- Round 68 – Feb 2025. 87.5% satisfactory results, 12.5% questionable results
- Round 69 – June 2025. 100% satisfactory results
- Round 71 – Sept 2025. 100% satisfactory results
- Round 72 – Dec 2025. 100% satisfactory results

PT Rounds during 2026

- Round 74 – March 2026. 100% satisfactory results

The table below shows a summary of our z-score results

PT Round	Technician	z-scores	Performance
62 – Feb 2024	1	0.84, 0.86, 0.20, -0.10	100% SATISFACTORY
	2	-0.69, 0.22, -0.20, 0.30	
63 – June 2024	1	0.26, 0.13, -0.14, -0.34	100% SATISFACTORY
	2	0.00, 0.13, 0.27, 0.00	
65 – Sept 2024	1	0.33, 0.16, 0.00, -0.04	100% SATISFACTORY
	2	0.33, -0.32, 0.08, 0.37	
66 – Dec 2024	1	0.78, 0.26, -0.06, 0.19	100% SATISFACTORY
	2	0.13, -1.03, -1.04, -0.39	
68 – Feb 2025	1	0.35, 0.89, -0.05, 0.00	87.5% SATISFACTORY, 12.5% QUESTIONABLE
	2	0.70, -2.86, 0.23, 0.28	
69 – June 2025	1	1.22, 1.48, 0.39, 0.32	100% SATISFACTORY
	2	0.97, 1.11, 0.39, 0.13	

71 – Sept 2025	1	0.26, 0.09, 0.00, 0.46	100% SATISFACTORY
	2	0.26, 0.74, 0.64, 0.91	
72 – Dec 2025	1	0.09, 0.57, -0.27, 0.00	100% SATISFACTORY
	2	0.62, 1.14, 0.34, 0.47	
74 – March 2026	1	0.27, 0.27, 0.19, 0.57	100% SATISFACTORY
	2	0.93, 0.38, 1.75, 0.57	

For more information on the AIR PT Scheme and older results see the Defra website:

https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/air-quality-assessment/qa-qc-framework/

Field Intercomparison (NPL)

Our performance for all Field Intercomparison results of 2025 was classified as ‘GOOD’ (CoV <20).

Bias factor

The bias adjustment factor spreadsheet on the Defra website was updated in March 2026. The overall bias factor for Staffordshire Highways Laboratory (see Staffordshire County Council) for 2025 (including the Field Intercomparison result and all the co-location results from participating local authorities, total of 14 studies) was 0.81.

The tube precision for all co-location studies was ‘Good’.

Diffusion Tube Annualisation

All diffusion tube monitoring locations within Stafford Borough Council recorded data capture of 75% therefore it was not required to annualise any monitoring data. In addition, any sites with a data capture below 25% do not require annualisation

Table C.1 – Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in µg/m^3)

NIL

Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors

The diffusion tube data presented within the 2026 ASR have been corrected for bias using an adjustment factor. Bias represents the overall tendency of the diffusion tubes to under or over-read relative to the reference chemiluminescence analyser. LAQM.TG22 provides guidance with regard to the application of a bias adjustment factor to correct diffusion tube monitoring. Triplicate co-location studies can be used to determine a local bias factor based on the comparison of diffusion tube results with data taken from NO_x/NO_2 continuous analysers. Alternatively, the national database of diffusion tube co-location surveys provides bias factors for the relevant laboratory and preparation method.

Stafford Borough Council have applied a national bias adjustment factor of 0.81 to the 2025 monitoring data (version 03/26). A summary of bias adjustment factors used by Stafford Borough Council over the past five years is presented in Table C.2.

A National Bias adjustment was used to accord with the laboratory QA/QC methodology and for consistency with past reports.

Staffordshire County Council	20% TEA in water	2025		**Overall Factor[3] (14 studies)**	**Use**	**0.81**

Table C.2 – Bias Adjustment Factor

Monitoring Year	Local or National	If National, Version of National Spreadsheet	Adjustment Factor
2025	N	03/26	0.81
2024	N	03/25	0.87
2023	N	03/24	0.87
2022	N	03/23	0.86
2021	N	03/22	0.85

Table C.3 – Local Bias Adjustment Calculation

NIL

NO_2 Fall-off with Distance from the Road

NIL

Table C.4 – Non-Automatic NO_2 Fall off With Distance Calculations (concentrations presented in $\mu g/m^3$)

NIL

QA/QC of Automatic Monitoring

NIL

PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ Monitoring Adjustment

NIL

Automatic Monitoring Annualisation

NIL

Table C.5 – Automatic NO_2 Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in $\mu g/m^3$

NIL

Table C.6 – Automatic PM_{10} Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in $\mu g/m^3$

NIL

Table C.7 – Automatic $PM_{2.5}$ Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in $\mu g/m^3$

NIL

NO_2 Fall-off with Distance from the Road

NIL

Table C.8 – Automatic NO_2 Fall off With Distance Calculations (concentrations presented in $\mu g/m^3$)

NIL

Summary of Low Cost Air Quality Sensor Monitoring

Table C.9– Details of Low Cost Sensor Sites

NIL

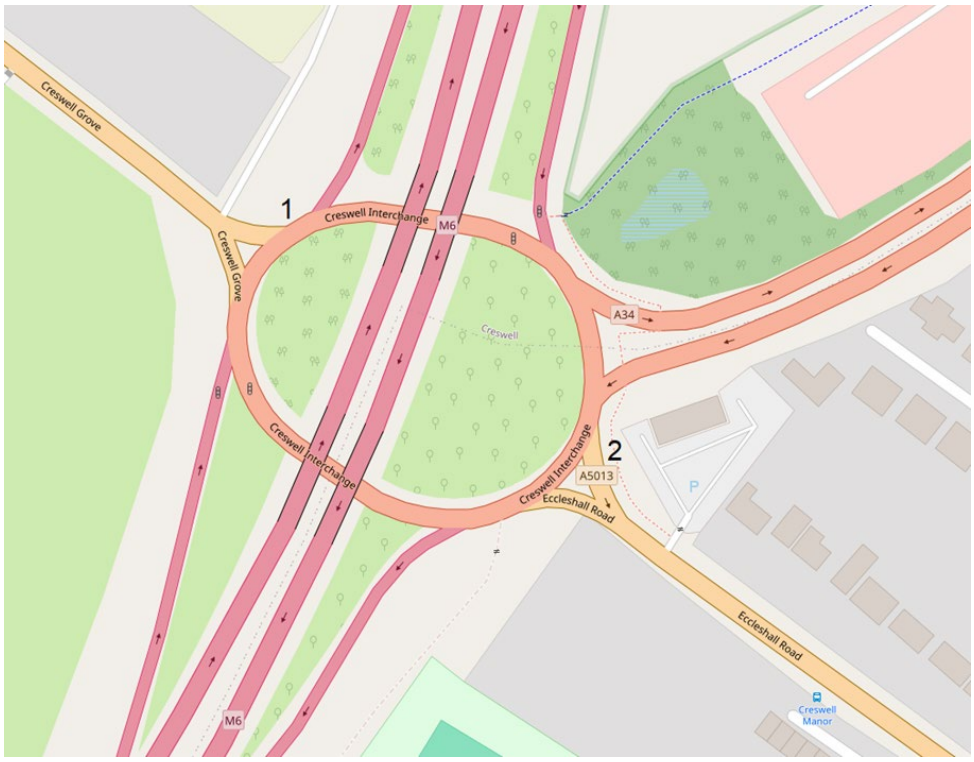
Table C.10 – Monthly Air Quality Sensor Monitoring Results

NIL

Appendix D: Map(s) of Monitoring Locations and AQMAs

Figure D.1 – Map of Non-Automatic Monitoring Site

Sites 1 and 2 M6 J14



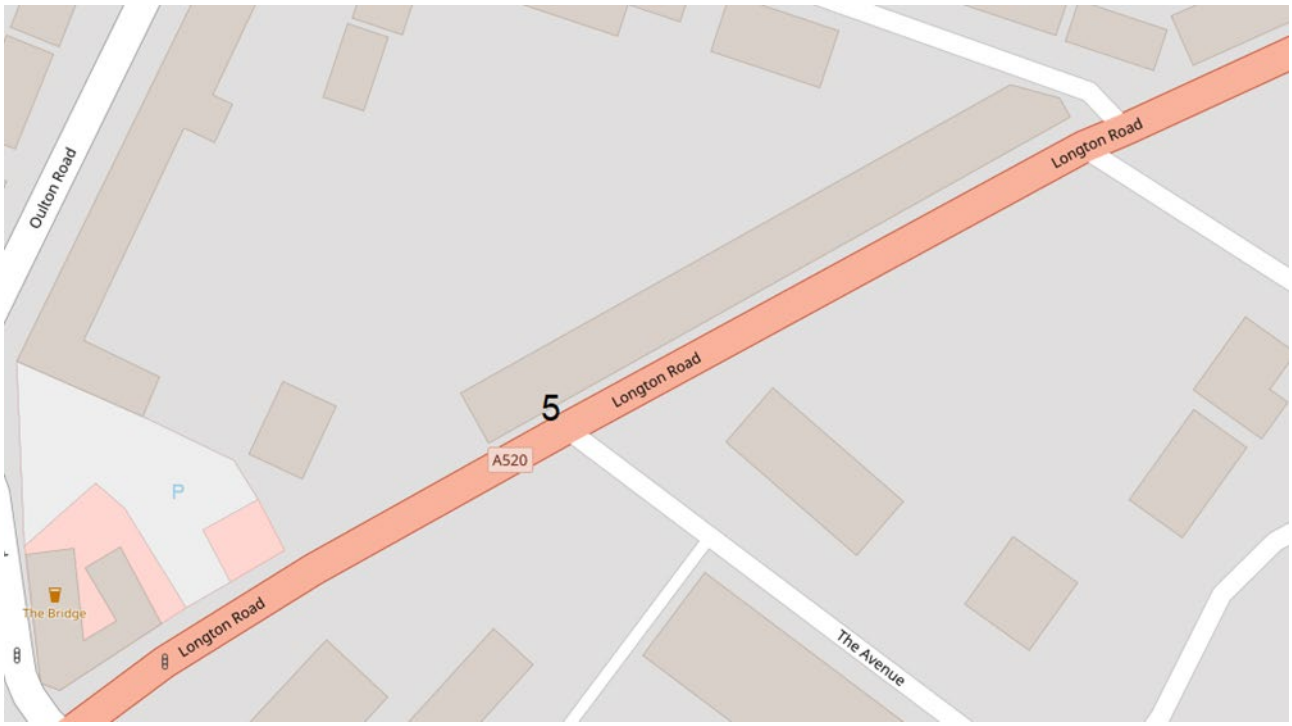
Site 3 M6


A518
Castle Bank
Newport Road
Sundown Drive
Sundown Drive
Denver Fold
Liberty Park
Sundown Drive
Newport Road
A518
Liberty Park
Lexington Green
Lethbridge Gardens
3
Lincoln Meadow
Sundown Drive
Whimster Square
M6

Site 4 Meir Heath Junction



Site 5 Longton Road Stone



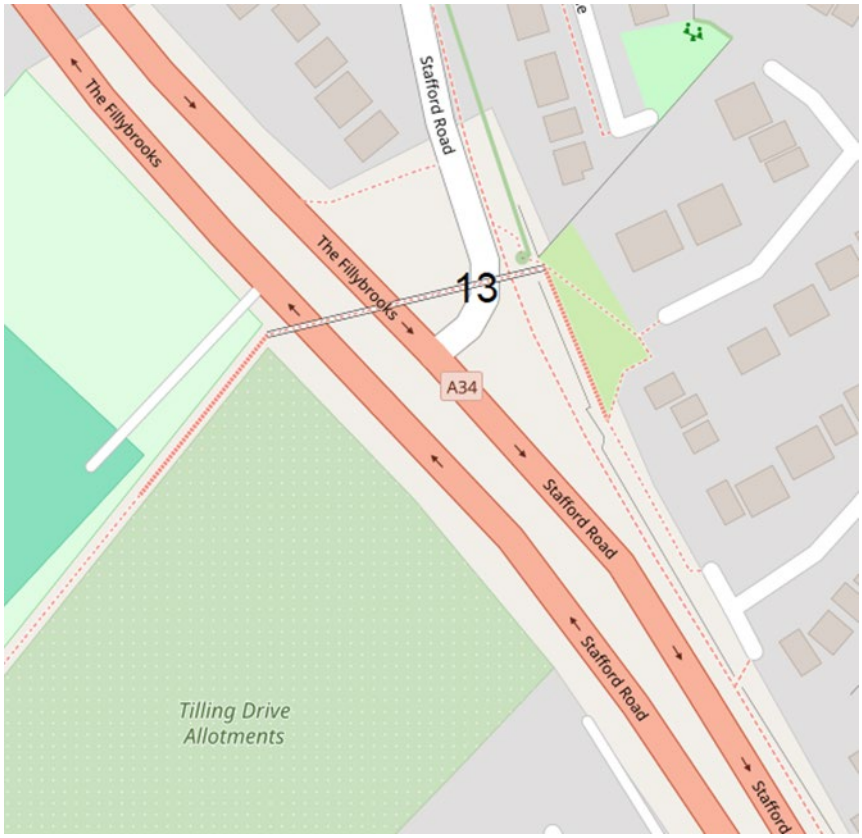
Site 6 Radford Bank Weeping Cross



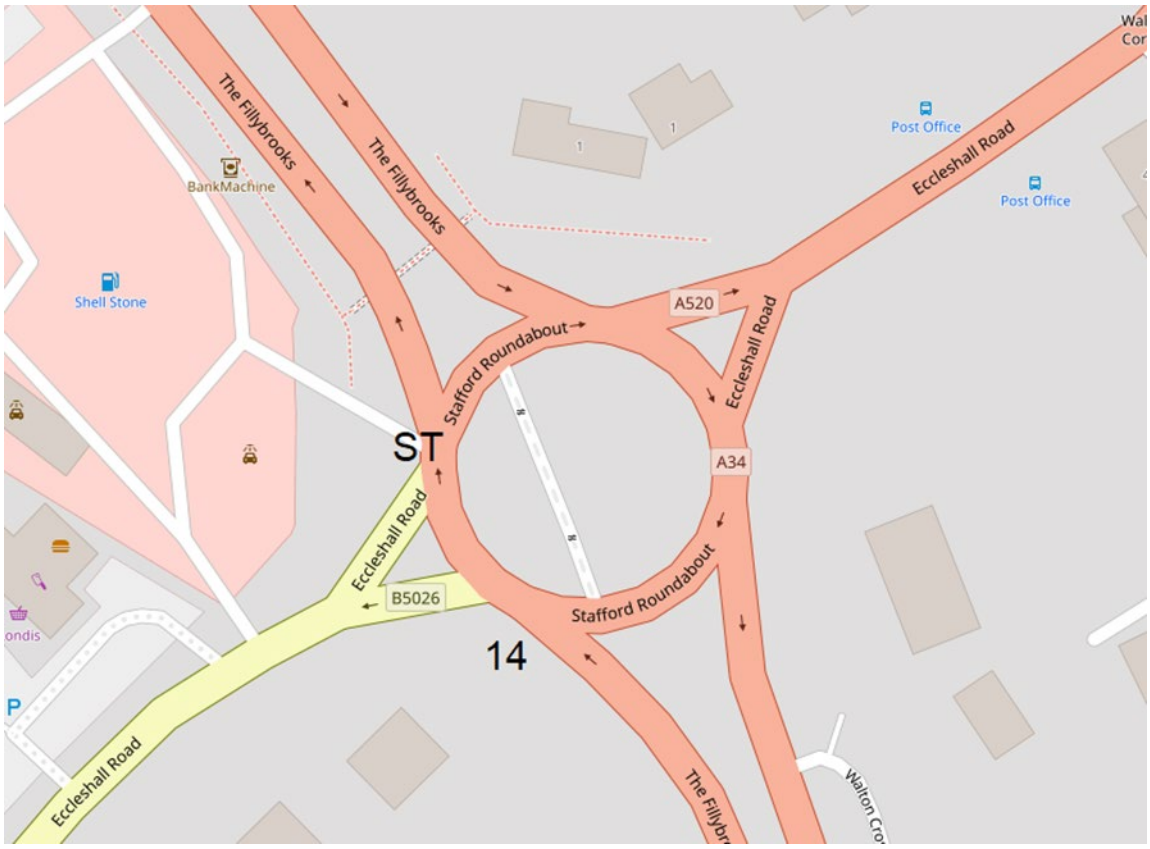
Site 8 A500 Clayton



Site 13 A34 Stone



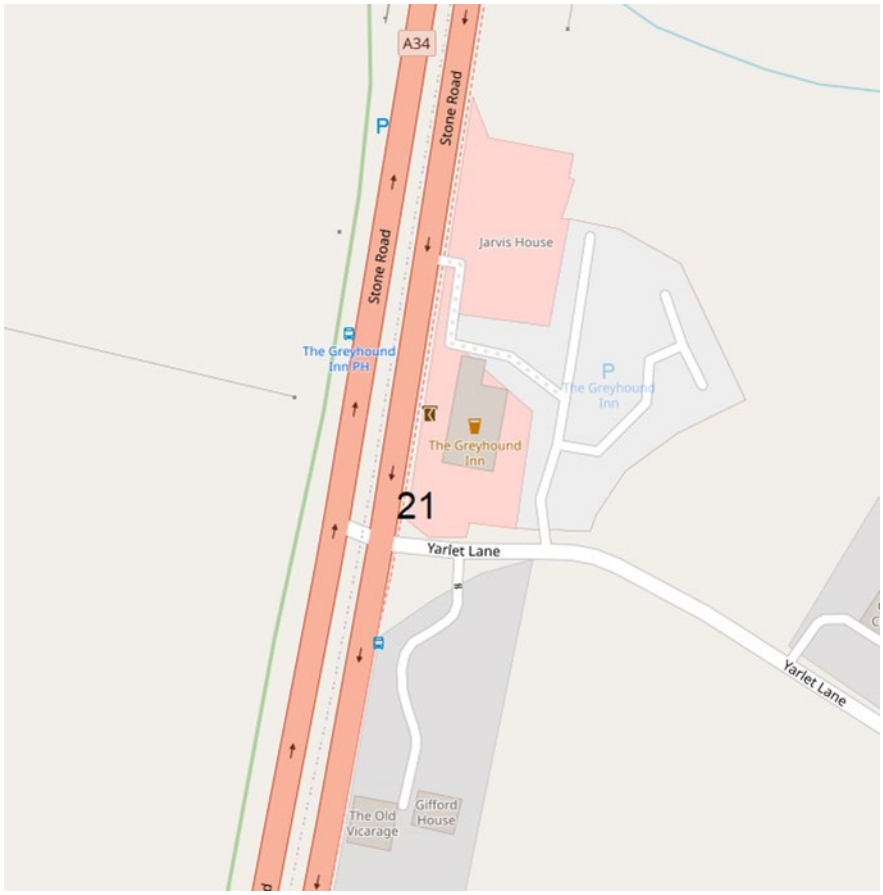
Sites 14 and ST A34 Stone



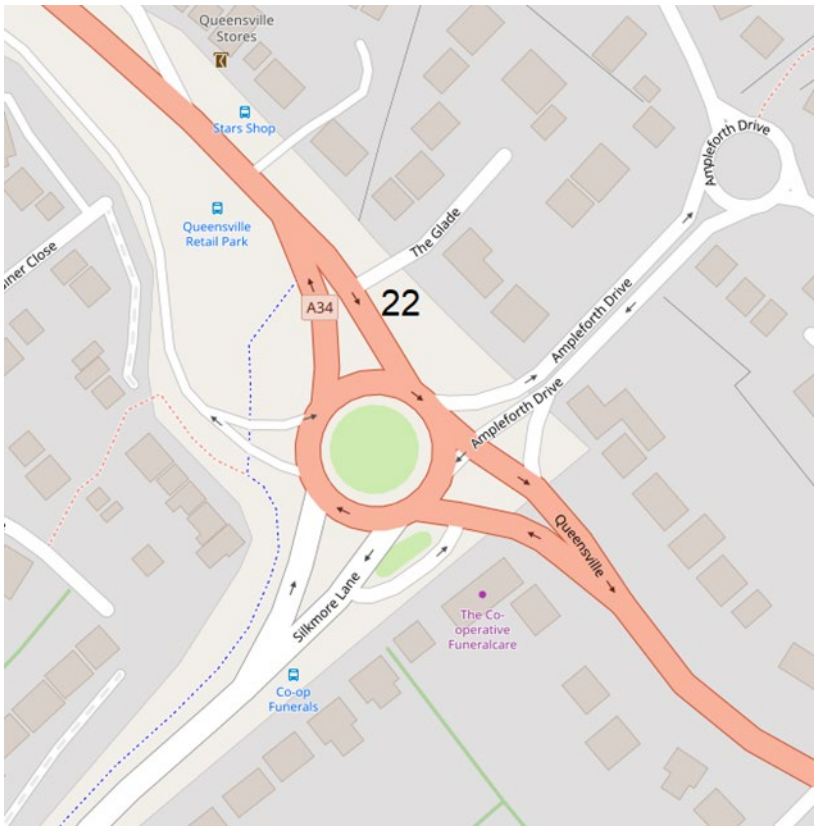
Site 16 Darlaston A34



Site 21 Yarlet A34



Site 22 Queensville A34



Sites 31,32 and BM, Burton Manor M6



Site 33 Mosspit M6



Sites 36 and BB1 A50 Blythe Bridge



Site 40 M6 Hanchurch



Site BB2 Blythe Bridge A50



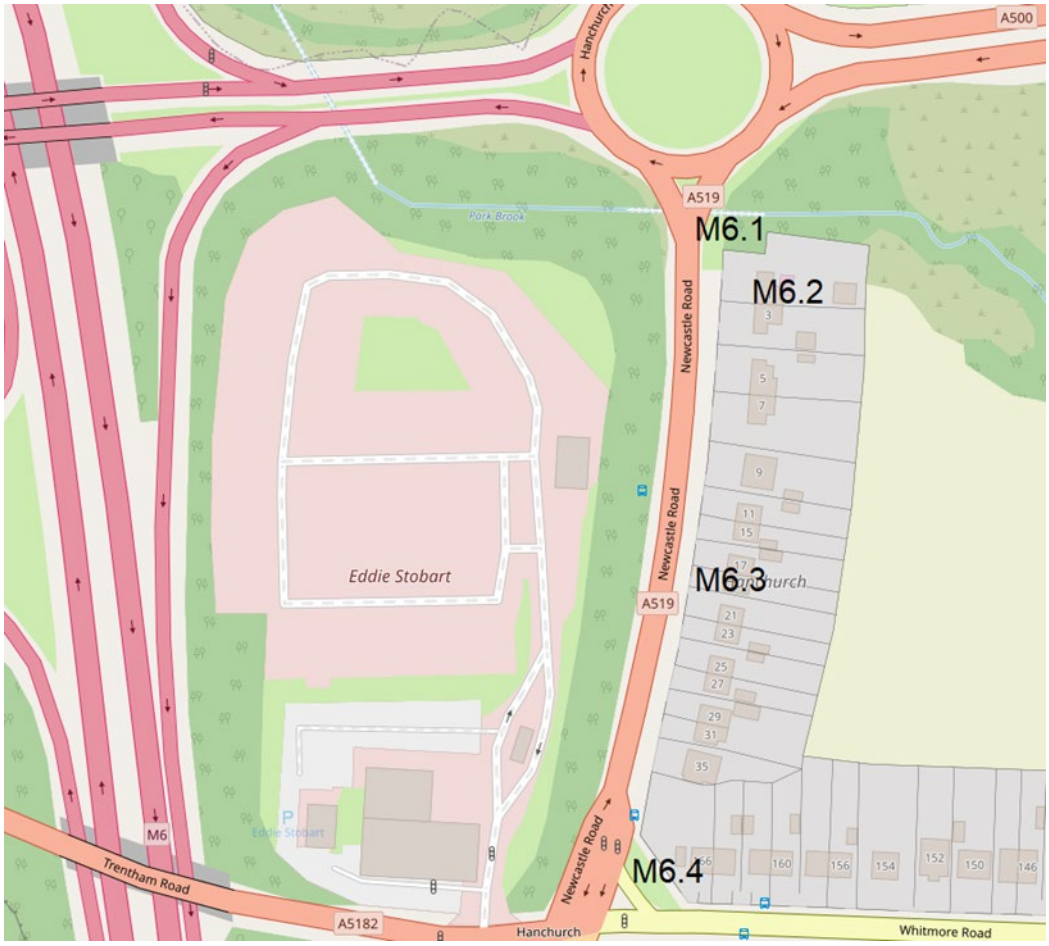
Site TR A34 Trentham



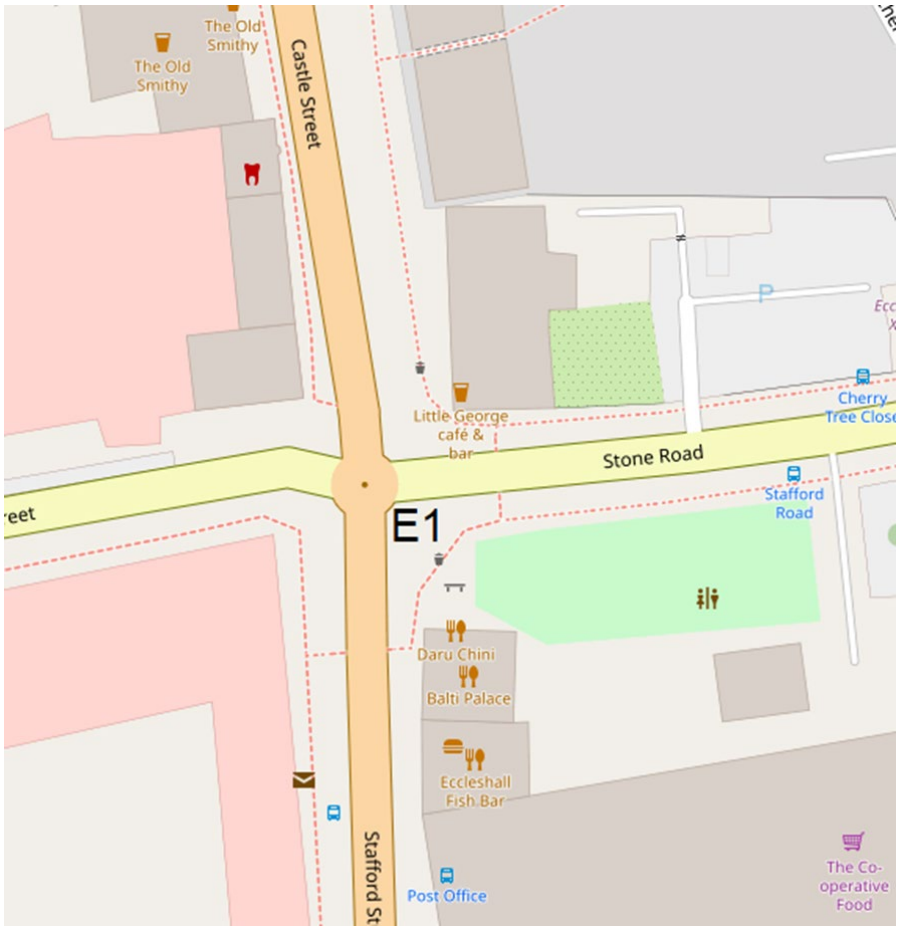
Site Titt Tittensor A34



Sites M6.1, M6.2, M6.3 and M6.4 Clayton



Site E1 Eccleshall



Appendix E: Summary of Air Quality Objectives in England

Table E.1 – Air Quality Objectives in England[1]

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective: Concentration	Air Quality Objective: Measured as
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	200µg/m^3 not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	40µg/m^3	Annual mean
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	50µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	40µg/m^3	Annual mean
Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)	350µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean
Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)	125µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean
Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)	266µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean

[1] The units are in microgrammes of pollutant per cubic metre of air (µg/m^3).

Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation	Description
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan - A detailed description of measures, outcomes, achievement dates and implementation methods, showing how the local authority intends to achieve air quality limit values'
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area – An area where air pollutant concentrations exceed / are likely to exceed the relevant air quality objectives. AQMAs are declared for specific pollutants and objectives
ASR	Annual Status Report
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges – Air quality screening tool produced by National Highways
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxides
PM_{10}	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10µm or less
$PM_{2.5}$	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm or less
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control
SO_2	Sulphur Dioxide

References

- Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM.TG22. August 2022. Published by Defra in partnership with the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Department of the Environment Northern Ireland.
- Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance LAQM.PG22. August 2022. Published by Defra in partnership with the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Department of the Environment Northern Ireland.
- Chemical hazards and poisons report: Issue 28. June 2022. Published by UK Health Security Agency
- Air Quality Strategy – Framework for Local Authority Delivery. August 2023. Published by Defra.

Local Authority:	**Stafford Borough Council**
Reference:	**ASR26-3172**
Date of Issue:	**August 2026**

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

The Annual Status Report (ASR) sets out new information on air quality obtained by the Stafford Borough Council (SBC) as part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) and subsequent Regulations.

SBC has no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) declared within their jurisdiction, and thus there is no requirement for a formal Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). A Local Air Quality Strategy (AQS) is being finalised, with publication planned following local government reorganisation to ensure alignment with future governance arrangements.

From 2023, those authorities who have not had to designate AQMAs and produce AQAPs should draw up a local AQS. The objective of a local AQS is to encourage prevention and reduction of polluting activities in preference to only taking steps to reduce air pollution once exceedances have been identified.

Local AQS will not have a set format, and authorities will be able to draw on content within their ASR and local transport plans to produce them. As long as the strategy addresses air quality assessments and policy responsibilities under the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) regime, it can be combined with the authority's other relevant plans and strategies if it is logical to do so.

SBC does not operate automatic (continuous) monitoring sites.

SBC undertook non-automatic (passive) monitoring of NO_2 at 29 locations in 2025. During the reporting year, there were no exceedances of the annual mean NO_2 Air Quality Objective (AQO). The highest recorded annual mean NO_2 concentration was at Site ID ST, which recorded a value of 28.0 µg/m^3. 14 out of 29 sites recorded a reduction in annual mean NO_2 concentration from 2024, within an overall downward trend over the last 5 years. There were no sites which recorded an annual mean NO_2 concentration of more than 60 µg/m^3, therefore it is unlikely that there were any exceedances of the AQO for 1-hour mean NO_2 in 2025.

SBC identified three key measures within Table 2.2. These measures will be fed into UK-AIR to raise awareness amongst local communities of local authority action to improve air quality. The key priorities for SBC over the next reporting year include:

- Incorporating Air Quality into its climate change strategy, through policy and guidance.
- Taxi fleet electrification, to promote low-emission transport.

- Advancing ECO Stars vehicle fleet efficiency measures to reduce emissions, supporting cleaner operations and improved air quality outcomes.

SBC also has a list of measures to reduce $PM_{2.5}$ emissions, which include:

1. Industrial and commercial emissions; planning controls for new establishments and regulation of existing with emphasis on combustion activities;
2. Traffic engine emissions and tyre wear; links to traffic management actions already scheduled against other pollutants; and
3. Residential heating (in particular solid fuel use); there are no smoke control areas in the Borough, and there is not significant solid fuel use, however advice on proper usage and fuel selection is available on the Council website.

SBC implemented robust QA/QC procedures which have been applied appropriately to the 2025 monitoring data. SBC selected and applied a national bias adjustment factor of 0.81 to the 2025 monitoring data. All monitoring locations achieved at least 75% data capture; therefore, annualisation was not required.

The measures included operating the NO_2 diffusion tube programme in accordance with the diffusion tube monitoring calendar and through an approved laboratory: Staffordshire Highways Laboratory. Tube precision for this laboratory was consistently shown as good for tube preparation 20% triethanolamine in acetone.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached in the report are **accepted** for all sources and pollutants. Following the completion of this report, SBC should Submit an ASR in 2027.

Local Authority:	**Stafford Borough Council**
Reference:	**ASR26-3172**
Date of Issue:	**August 2026**

Commentary

The report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance. The following comments are designed to help inform future reports:

1. SBC have provided good maps of all monitoring locations within the district. This should continue on future ASRs.
2. SBC have provided a robust and detailed table of actions undertaken in the area to reduce $PM_{2.5}$ emissions in SBC. This is welcomed.
3. It would be preferred if the annual NO_2 concentration of each monitoring location was shown in trend graphs. This is because the average NO_2 concentrations across all monitoring sites (currently presented) are impacted by the removal and addition of diffusion tube monitoring sites over the years.
4. A screenshot of the national bias adjustment database has been included. This is commended.
5. Last year's appraisal comments have been included and addressed, which is commended.

This commentary is not designed to deal with every aspect of the report. It highlights a number of issues that should help the local authority either in completing the Annual Status Report adequately (if required) or in carrying out future Review & Assessment work.

Issues specifically related to this appraisal can be followed up by returning the attached comment form to Defra, Welsh Government, Scottish Government or DOE.

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:
Telephone: 0800 0327 953
Email: LAQMHelpdesk@bureauveritas.com

The Air Quality Hub is now run by Defra, it is a free online information and knowledge sharing resource for local authority air quality professionals. Please consider onboarding on the Air Quality Hub to access a multitude of air quality resources and be kept up to date with local authority air quality activity and air quality news.

Local Authority:	**Stafford Borough Council**
Reference:	**ASR26-3172**
Date of Issue:	**August 2026**

Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	UKLAQMAppraisals@aecom.com

Comments on appraisal / Further information:

Priority Delivery Plan for 2026-27

Priority 2 - Communities and Wellbeing

Summary of Progress as at end of Quarter 2

			**N/A**	**Total Number of Projects/Actions Due**
Work completed	Work in progress but behind schedule	Work not yet started	Not applicable/superceded	
5	1	1		7

Summary of Successes as at Quarter 2
Refurbishment of the first unit of temporary accommodation is well underway and on target for handover in quarter 3.

Summary of Slippage as at Quarter 2
Contract award for the Supported Housing Strategy has slipped into quarter 3. The procurement was successful and the work will start in quarter 3. It is still on track to be completed to the original timescales.

Priority 2 - Communities and Wellbeing

Project	Actions and Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Progress Update	Symbol
Delivery of council owned temporary accommodation	Acquire first unit of temporary accommodation	X				Property purchased and contract awarded for refurbishments.	✓
	Procure works to first unit and project manage refurbishment		X			Refurbishment works on site progressed, due to complete for sign off in Q3.	✓
	Hand over property to Housing Options			X			
	Enter into contract for conversion of town centre units to temporary accommodation	X				Contract awarded completed.	✓
	Start works on site			X			
	Complete works on site and hand over to Housing Options				X		
	Purchase 3 properties using local authority housing grant funding				X		
Strategic Housing and Homelessness	Award contract for Housing Strategy	X				It is not a statutory requirement to have a housing strategy. Due to the new additional duty of producing a supported housing strategy, resource has been shifted into completing this by the Government deadline of 31 March 2027. If the Housing Strategy and Research Officer post is filled, this can be picked up later in the year.	✗

Project	Actions and Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Progress Update	Symbol
	Award contract for Supported Housing Strategy Needs Assessment		X			Successful contractor identified. Contract award delayed into Q3.	
	Complete Supported Housing Strategy Needs Assessment and start Supported Housing Strategy				X		
Leisure, Culture and Heritage Provision	Review of Stafford's leisure, culture and heritage provision	X				An options appraisal has been commissioned, and work has progressed throughout quarter 1, scoping the options for the delivery of leisure, culture and heritage in Stafford Borough.	
	Decision on scope of Stafford's future commissioned service in context of end of initial 10-year term in November 2027		X			Cabinet agreed the recommendations proposed at their meeting on 17 September. Consultants commissioned to support next steps.	
Community Wellbeing	Complete Community Wellbeing Strategy, setting out priorities across community safety and health (2025-2028)			X			
	Agree a delivery plan for the Community Wellbeing Strategy			X			
	Complete the actions in the delivery plan and evaluate impact on Community Wellbeing				X		
	Evaluate the impact of the small grant scheme on an annual basis				X		

Priority Delivery Plan for 2026-27

Priority 3 – Extract re Nature Recovery and the Environment

Summary of Progress as at end of Quarter 2

✓	▲	✖	**N/A**	**Total Number of Projects/Actions Due**
Work completed	Work in progress but behind schedule	Work not yet started	Not applicable/superceded	
5	3			8

Summary of Successes as at Quarter 2
Play area and parks improvements: The contract for the redevelopment of Rowley Park play area was awarded, with works expected to start in Quarter 3. The public and ward-member consultation began for the redevelopment of the four identified play areas on schedule.

Summary of Slippage as at Quarter 2
Work on the Trees Action Plan is progressing but is behind schedule largely due to capacity issues caused by vacancies. 3 out of 7 posts have been recruited to and the successful applicants are due to start in Q3. Priority is currently being given to the responsive tree service (i.e. reports of dangerous trees). Considerable progress has been made with the implementation of the new tree management system and this is now expected to go live in Q3. This will also support progressing the procurement of tree inspections for red zones along with the decision to bring in a consultant to assist with this work.

Project	Actions and Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Progress Update	Symbol
Nature Recovery	Delivery of the nature recovery action plan				X		
Introduce weekly kerbside food waste collections	Introduce new weekly food waste collections from April 2026	X				Successful introduction of new weekly food waste collections across the borough during April 2026 with higher-than-expected yield.	✓
Tree Management	**Recruitment**						
	• Commence recruitment of Tree Management and Maintenance Teams	X				All 5 officer posts across both Councils were put to the market in early June 26, along with 2 Senior Arboriculturist posts	✓
	• Interview and recruit successful candidates into teams		X			Interviews were held as scheduled during Q2. 3 of 7 posts were appointed into with successful candidates due to start in Q3. Market supplements to be applied to posts that were not filled.	▲
	Tree Inspections						
	• Begin procurement for inspection of trees in red zones		X			Preparation for the procurement of red zone inspections has been ongoing but is behind schedule due to staff capacity issues and other tree related work. Start date for procurement revised to Q4.	▲
	• Inspections of Red Zone Trees			X			

Project	Actions and Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Progress Update	Symbol
	Go-live / Introduction of joint tree management system		X			Go-live/introduction of the new tree management system has been hampered by data preparation requirements and staff capacity issues, as per the above. Now due to go live in Q3.	
Investment in Parks, Play Areas and Open Spaces	**Rowley Park play area phase one re-development**						
	• Procurement for development works contractor complete	X				Procurement process complete and expecting to award the contract in Q2	
	• Contract for development works awarded		X			Contract awarded in Q2 with works expected to commence on site in Q3	
	• Development works commence on site			X			
	• Development works complete				X		
	Re-development of four identified play areas						
	• Begin public consultation on re-development of the four play areas		X			Consultation with the public and with ward members has commenced in Q2	
	• Complete public consultation and begin procurement for contractor to complete the re-development works			X			
	• Complete procurement and award the works to the contractor				X		

KPIs for Priority 2 - Communities and Wellbeing

Symbol	Description	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	End of Year
	Performance on or exceeds target	1	2			
	Performance < 5% below target	1				
	Performance > 5% below target					
	TOTAL KPIs DUE TO BE REPORTED	2	2			

Priority 2 - Communities and Wellbeing

Indicator	Year End 25/26	Target 26/27	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Year End 26/27	Rating Symbol	Comments
Strategic Housing, Homelessness and Assistance									
% households had a positive outcome and secured accommodation for 6 + months	49%	43%	60%	59%				✓	
Delivery of affordable housing per year working with Registered Providers, Developers and Homes England (Annual)	83 homes	210 homes						Annual	
No of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) completed	184	125	22	63				✓	
Annual report on delivery of the Disabled Facilities Grants service	N/A							Annual	Presentation to Community Wellbeing Scrutiny
Leisure, Culture & Heritage									
Annual Report from Freedom Leisure setting out the performance of all facilities and the wider wellbeing work and events they facilitate.	N/A							Annual	Presentation to Community Wellbeing Scrutiny
Health and Wellbeing									
Total value of financial outcomes achieved as a result of the Citizen's Advice contract	£3,491,331	N/A Measure only	£791,005	£466,423				N/A	Contextual information only

KPIs for Priority 3 – Extract for Nature Recovery and the Environment

Symbol	Description	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	End of Year
	Performance on or exceeds target	6	5			
	Performance < 5% below target					
	Performance > 5% below target	1	2			
	TOTAL KPIs DUE TO BE REPORTED	7	7			

Priority 3 – Extract for Nature Recovery and the Environment

Indicator	Year End 25/26	Target 26/27	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Year End 26/27	Rating Symbol	Comments
Waste and Recycling									
% collections completed first time	99.95%	99.90%	99.98%	99.97%				✓	Consistent completed collections percentage now that food waste collections have settled.
Number of missed bin collections (including assisted)/100,000/qtr.	51 per 100,000	<40 per 100,000	51 per 100,000	27 per 100,000				✓	Back inside target due to food waste services embedding.
% Household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting	44.94%	48%	48.49%	50.54%				✓	Recycling percentage increase due to consistent food waste tonnages being collected and recycled
Amount of household residual waste collected per household (Kgs)	424.04 kgs	<448kgs or 112kgs / qtr.	107.61 kgs	97.67 kgs				✓	Reduction aligned with food waste collection tonnages
Amount of food waste collected (tons)	N/A	NEW	961 tonnes	947.06 tonnes				N/A	Target to be determined during first year of introduction.
Streetscene									
Land Audit Management System (LAMS) satisfaction grading for cleansing*	N/A	80%	92%	85%				✓	

Indicator	Year End 25/26	Target 26/27	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Year End 26/27	Rating Symbol	Comments
LAMS satisfaction grading for Grounds Maintenance*	N/A	80%	87%	76%					Seasonal factors such as dry conditions and excessive heat can cause fluctuations in gradings
LAMS satisfaction grading for Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance in Parks*	N/A	80%	90%	75%					As above

*The measure for satisfaction has been changed to use Land Audit Management System (LAMS) grading. This has been developed by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) and uses set criteria to grade Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance standards. This approach is used by other Local Authorities and the grading feeds into national benchmarking data

Agenda Item 7(e)

Work Programme - Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Committee: Community Wellbeing Scrutiny

Date of Meeting: 3 December 2026

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

Portfolio: Community Portfolio

---

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the report be noted.

3 Key Issues

3.1 The first stage in achieving a Member-led Overview and Scrutiny process is to develop a Work Programme for the Members of the Committee to own.

3.2 Accordingly, an up-to-date copy of the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme is provided for Members to consider or amend as appropriate.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

4.1 This report is most closely associated with the following Corporate Business Objective 1:-

To deliver sustainable economic and housing growth to provide income and jobs.

5 Report Detail

5.1 Members will recall that one of the fundamental philosophies behind the creation of Overview and Scrutiny is that the process should be Member-led and the first stage in achieving this is to develop a Work Programme that is:-

- Owned by all Members of the Scrutiny Committee
- Flexible to allow the Committee to react to urgent items
- Contain aspects of both Overview and Scrutiny

5.2 Therefore, at each scheduled meeting of the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, an up-to-date copy of the Work Programme will be provided for Members to consider or amend as appropriate.

5.3 The Work Programme includes provision for the Committee to scrutinise appropriate items delivered through the Council's Service Delivery Plan up to twelve months in advance, whilst maintaining the flexibility to respond to any issues that may arise.

5.4 Accordingly, attached at **APPENDIX** is the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's current Work Programme to consider or amend as appropriate.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

None

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Risk Management

None

6.5 Equalities and Diversity

The Borough Council considers the effect of its actions on all sections and has addressed all of the following Equality Strands in the production of this report, as appropriate:-

Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

6.6 Health

None

6.7 Climate Change

None

7 Appendices

Appendix: Work Programme

8 Previous Consideration

None

9 Background Papers

File available in Law and Governance

Contact Officer:	Jackie Allen
Telephone Number:	01785 619552
Ward Interest:	Nil
Report Track:	Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee – 3 December 2026 (Only)
Key Decision:	N/A

Appendix

Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme

Wednesday 17 March 2027 at 6:30pm

Report Deadline: Tuesday 2 March 2027

Officer Reports:

Community Wellbeing Partnership Presentation
Head of Wellbeing

Streetscene Update
Streetscene Manager

Q3 Performance Report
Heads of Wellbeing/Operations/Regulatory Services

Work Programme
Head of Law and Governance

Future Items:

Obesity and Diabetes - joint with County Council

Provision of properties for independent living (large scale development)

Biodiversity / Air Quality in Town Centre and outside schools

Simpler Recycling - C Grade Plastics

Bereavement and Loss

Children in Care / Housing

Turning Point Presentation

Tree Management and Tree Protection Orders

Increase in “fast” cremations

Food Safety Annual Report

Nature Recovery Action Plan (Bill Waller)