



**Adam Jogee MP**  
Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme

FAO Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council  
(Sent via email to [planningpolicy@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk))

1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Response to the Newcastle-under-Lyme District Borough Council final draft Local Plan 2020-2040 Matter 1a and 1b (at Regulation 19 stage)**

I write as the Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme following engagement with residents from right across the community on these issues. This is my formal submission – and response - to **Matter 1a and 1b** of the final draft Local Plan from Newcastle-under-Lyme District Borough Council.

During the last two years, many individual residents and community groups have raised concerns with me on issues relating to the initial draft of the Local Plan and other areas that naturally sit under the purview of the Local Plan. I have addressed a number of the concerns outlined to me relating to Matter 1a – Legal Compliance - and Matter 1b - Overarching Matters - below. I trust that you will use the legal requirement and duty to cooperate (introduced under the Localism Act 2011) to work collaboratively – and effectively - with neighbouring local authorities and other relevant bodies and stakeholders to address the range of community and strategic needs right across Newcastle-under-Lyme.

**Matter 1a – Legal Compliance**

*Issue 1.9 - How have issues of equality been addressed in the Local Plan?*

**Matter 1b - Overarching Matters**

*Issue 1.12 - Is the Plan period (2020 – 2040) justified, effective and consistent with national policy which requires strategic policies to look at least 15 years ahead from adoption? Should the requirements/timescales for review of the Plan be set out in policy?*

**Education**

Across Newcastle-under-Lyme, and the county of Staffordshire, the special educational needs (SEN) services are coordinated through various initiatives designed to support children and young people with disabilities. Since my election as the Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme, I have been contacted by many, many residents with distressing stories of their children and loved ones unable to secure an assessment or the support required for that young person to succeed and thrive.

**Constituency Office:**

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Indeed, many school leaders have shared their total dismay at the backlog and capacity issues. One local school told me how some 30% of their learners had SEN requirements yet only 7% had plans in place. This is unacceptable.

Whilst national government has a role to play in tackling this situation, and we are working to fix the crisis inherited by the last administration, local government has a fundamental role to play here. The plan as presented proposes significant expansion of the local population but fails to set out how our education provision will be supported, enhanced and improved. I am keen to see much more detail in the plan so that I can work with you to address some of the structural failings and ensure equality of access to SEND provision.

### **Future of health and community care**

There is a lot of work being undertaken by Staffordshire Integrated Care Board, the Department for Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group on new or improved services. The local plan seems light on detail on where these services may be located and what infrastructure will be required, despite these being key to accessing healthcare provision and the health and wellbeing of local people. I would welcome more detail within the plan on how health and care services will be delivered for current residents and new communities that will be created within the plan to ensure equality of access.

In summary, I would like to thank you for sharing the final draft Local Plan for public and stakeholder consultation. I hope that the issues identified in this submission, all based on the work I have done for – and with – my constituents since my election as the Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme, will help deliver a Local Plan that is properly fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, fit for purpose – and most importantly – for all the people who live, learn and work here in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Yours sincerely,



**Adam Jogee MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme**