

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Service Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Panel**

**24 July 2024**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Street Furniture Report</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Councillor Matt Swindlehurst – Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Matt Trewartha - Interim Head of Assets</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>All</b>

**Appendices Attached:**

**Appendix A – Leek Street Furniture**

**Appendix B – Biddulph Street Furniture**

**Appendix C – Cheadle Street Furniture**

**1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the number of known Street Furniture (SF) assets held on the Asset Team’s schedules within the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) area. Plans have been attached separately displaying where each furniture item is located in the three towns of Leek, Biddulph and Cheadle.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

**3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 SF is the term given to assets which serve the public but do not constitute a property or landholding.
- 3.2 SF includes benches, fingerposts, streetlamps, pigeon blocks, bollards, planters, signage, dustbins, and cycle-stands.
- 3.3 SF can encourage positivity within high streets and local areas. For example benches located near private cafes alongside litter bins encourage waste to be deposited appropriately, keeping the area clear of unsightly rubbish.

#### 4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

4.1 The SF portfolio contributes to Corporate Priorities by meeting the following aims:

Aim 1: Supporting our communities to create a healthier, safer, cleaner High Peak.

Aim 4: Protect and Improve the Environment and respond to the climate emergency.

#### 5. **Alternative Options**

5.1 There are no alternative options.

Martin Owen  
**Executive Director (Resources)**

#### **Web Links and Background Papers**

None

#### **Contact details**

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## 6. Detail

- 6.1 SF includes all those fixed assets that are placed in public places to accommodate the general public through, for example, providing places to sit, store bicycles, provide direction, or to place litter.
- 6.2 The Asset Team maintains a schedule of SF in the SMDC area, all of which has GPS coordinates to assist with their location, maintenance, and management.
- 6.3 Given SF assets have been procured, donated, or added over many years and, whilst a recent review of these assets has been undertaken, further work may be needed to establish its full content and accuracy. Also, the ownership of such assets requires further investigation as they may have been installed by Town or Parish councils or may be placed on un-registered land or highways and there has been little consistency to how they have come about and whose responsibility their maintenance is.
- 6.4 Given these factors, we may not hold a definitive list of the SF assets, for example the Lion is not included and has been flagged as requiring attention.
- 6.5 To reach a full and thorough register of such assets across the district would be a significant and costly undertaking.
- 6.6 SF assets that are on SMDC's database are summarised in the following table:

<b>Street Furniture Items</b>	<b>Leek</b>	<b>Cheadle</b>	<b>Biddulph</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bins	29	22	5	-	<b>56</b>
Street lighting/lampposts	6	12	11	-	<b>29</b>
Signs/ boards (speed signs/road signs)	4	10	-	34	<b>34</b>
Monument	-	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
Benches	52	5	10	16	<b>83</b>
Street plants	11	9	-	13	<b>13</b>
Bollards	4	-	-	11	<b>11</b>
Bike Stands	-	-	-	4	<b>4</b>
Dustbins	-	-	-	6	<b>6</b>
Fingerposts	-	-	-	16	<b>16</b>
Various	-	-	-	22	<b>22</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>275</b>

## 7. Inspection

- 7.1 As there have been challenges in maintaining an up to date and accurate record of such assets and, typically, they are of low financial value there is no formal planned inspection routine on these assets. Therefore, inspection is reactive, for example when something has failed or has been reported.

## 8. Maintenance

- 8.1 Maintenance and cleaning responsibility rests with Alliance Environmental Services Ltd (AES) and there was a focus on maintenance post-Covid as people came back into the towns.
- 8.2 An annual clean or jetwash of SF owned by SMDC is undertaken during the period 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> May, subject to weather conditions.
- 8.3 To improve the functionality and condition of the SF a 'Street Furniture Life Cycle Plan' could be developed. This would allow for efficient and effective maintenance and management of SF. This would also allow for longer term planning and ensuring the levels of service are defined and achievable for available budgets.
- 8.4 The general condition of the SF is considered to be 'average'. A SF Life Cycle Plan would be developed on the basis of a 5-year painting regime for all the necessary SF and a repair regime over three years depending on risks and set against available resources. Inspections of the SF would take place on a two year cycle. This would be to check for signs of deterioration or damage, training would be provided if necessary.
- 8.5 The costs incurred over the last three years for the repair, maintenance, and cleaning of three specific items of SF are shown in the table below:

Item	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Litter Bins	£0	£5,835.90	£1027.60
Street Name Plates	£1815.25	£2021.80	£1233.30
Litter Bins	£2,241.76	£6367.84	£0

- 8.6 Other items such as the cleaning of monuments and jet-washing of council-owned bus shelters are included within the management fee paid to AES.
- 8.7 Where appropriate, major repairs or cleaning should be carried out during the spring season as we expect more footfall during the summer period, this would allow the public to use the SF at its best condition.

## 9. Enhancement

- 9.1 There is no planned capital investment in the SF for addition to or enhancement of the portfolio.
- 9.2 Enhancements are reactive and based on the availability of resources and funding.