

Date of meeting **Tuesday, 2nd September, 2025**
Time **2.00 pm**
Venue **Astley Room - Castle**
Contact **Geoff Durham 742222**



**NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME**

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1BL

Cabinet

AGENDA

OPEN AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive declarations of interest from Members on items included in the agenda.
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** **(Pages 5 - 10)**
To consider the Minutes of the previous meeting.
- 4 WALLEYS QUARRY ODOUR ISSUES** **(To Follow)**
- 5 ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25** **(Pages 11 - 40)**
- 6 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2026-27 TO 2030-31** **(Pages 41 - 50)**
- 7 KIDSGROVE TOWN DEAL UPDATE AND CONTRACT AWARDS** **(Pages 51 - 58)**
- 8 NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME LOCAL PLAN 2020-40 UPDATE** **(Pages 59 - 66)**
- 9 RENEWAL OF CIVICA FINANCIALS CONTRACT** **(Pages 67 - 72)**
- 10 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW REPORT - FIRST QUARTER 2025-26** **(Pages 73 - 110)**
- 11 FORWARD PLAN** **(Pages 111 - 118)**
- 12 URGENT BUSINESS**
To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 13 DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following reports, because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972.

14 CIVICA FINANCIALS PROPOSAL - CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX (Pages 119 - 126)

ATTENDANCE AT CABINET MEETINGS

Councillor attendance at Cabinet meetings:

- (1) The Chair or spokesperson of the Council's scrutiny committees and the mover of any motion referred to Cabinet shall be entitled to attend any formal public meeting of Cabinet to speak.
- (2) Other persons including non-executive members of the Council may speak at such meetings with the permission of the Chair of the Cabinet.

Public attendance at Cabinet meetings:

- (1) If a member of the public wishes to ask a question(s) at a meeting of Cabinet, they should serve two clear days' notice in writing of any such question(s) to the appropriate committee officer.
- (2) The Council Leader as Chair of Cabinet is given the discretion to waive the above deadline and assess the permissibility of the question(s). The Chair's decision will be final.
- (3) The maximum limit is three public questions at any one Cabinet meeting.
- (4) A maximum limit of three minutes is provided for each person to ask an initial question or make an initial statement to the Cabinet.
- (5) Any questions deemed to be repetitious or vexatious will be disallowed at the discretion of the Chair.

Members: Councillors S Tagg (Leader) (Chair), Sweeney (Vice-Chair), Heesom, Fear, Skelding and Hutchison

Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.

Meeting Quorums: Where the total membership of a committee is 12 Members or less, the quorum will be 3 members.... Where the total membership is more than 12 Members, the quorum will be one quarter of the total membership.

SUBSTITUTE MEMBER SCHEME (Section B5 – Rule 2 of Constitution)

The Constitution provides for the appointment of Substitute members to attend Committees. The named Substitutes for this meeting are listed below:

Substitute Members:

If you are unable to attend this meeting and wish to appoint a Substitute to attend on your place you need to identify a Substitute member from the list above who is able to attend on your behalf.

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

NOTE: IF THE FIRE ALARM SOUNDS, PLEASE LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY THROUGH THE FIRE EXIT DOORS.

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CABINET

Tuesday, 8th July, 2025
Time of Commencement: 2.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present: Councillor Simon Tagg (Chair)

Councillors:	Sweeney	Fear	Hutchison
	Heesom	Skelding	

Officers:	Gordon Mole	Chief Executive
	Simon McEneny	Deputy Chief Executive
	Anthony Harold	Service Director - Legal & Governance / Monitoring Officer
	Sarah Wilkes	Service Director - Finance / S151 Officer
	Craig Jordan	Service Director - Planning
	Roger Tait	Service Director - Neighbourhood Delivery
	Geoff Durham	Civic & Member Support Officer
	Paul Dutton	Senior Media Officer

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3 June, 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **WALLEYS QUARRY ODOUR ISSUES**

The Leader introduced an update report on Walleys Quarry Odours, handing over to the Chief Executive for an update on what had been happening over the past month.

The Chief Executive reported that there had been 16 odour reports in June. Officers were continuing to look at the locations of the reports and were particularly looking at the description of the odour which had changed since the closure of the site.

The Council would continue to work towards recovery over a longer period –including the autumn which had traditionally been a difficult period with weather conditions impacting upon the odours coming from the site.

Twelve proactive assessments were undertaken in June, with the highest rating being 3. This had been taken on site whilst the Leader of the Council, officers and key agencies were on a visit. Works undertaken by the Environment Agency (EA) could be seen, as could works that had been left undone by the company.

The company remained in its liquidated state and had not, as yet, been wound up. The Council had corresponded with the liquidators with regard to the outstanding sums that were owed to the Council and on information on the company's arrangements.

The Leader stated that the visit to the site, which had been arranged by the EA, had been a good one, being able to see the site in a much better state than when the operators left it.

At the site meeting, the Leader had made the case that a close eye needed to be kept on the situation throughout the winter phase. The EA had said that the monitoring station at the pump station on Silverdale Road would be removed to allow for works to take place by Severn Trent Water. The EA stated that they would carry out a review once work was completed at the pump station, to see if the equipment needed to be returned. The Leader was keen for that to happen should there be a resurgence of odours in the autumn. If there was no resurgence, the Council would be moving to a phase looking to restore the site.

The Leader referred to the leachate plant used to control odours had not been kept up to standard and was not therefore doing its job.

Members agreed that a watching brief should be kept on the site, particularly over the next autumn/winter. In addition, it was hoped that the current MP would ensure that the Council received government funding for remediation of the site.

Resolved: That the update report be received.

[Watch the debate here](#)

5. CIVIC PRIDE (EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES) STRATEGY 2025/28

The Leader introduced a report seeking to approve the draft Civic Pride Strategy 2025-28, for consultation and adoption.

There had been a strategy in place for many years for community engagement but had launched the Civic Pride initiative in the last twelve months with a draft three year plan having now been put together to support it.

There were three priorities contained within the Strategy, those being: great places where we live; connecting our communities; and the way that the Council listens, talks and acts.

The consultation, running through the summer would be online, with an event, hopefully in town where people could drop in to see some of the initiatives put forward.

There was a Civic Pride Investment Fund of £22,000 to help support community groups.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing stated that the Council had been proactive with several Civic Pride days across the Borough and with more to come. It was uplifting to see how many people had attended the events. The mobile police station was popular and it was understood that they were receiving a lot of 'intelligence'. There was also take up from other partners.

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment stated that events had taken place in Kidsgrove, Loggerheads, Chesterton, Wolstanton and May Bank where a walk about with the police took place and members of the public approached them with their concerns. Events would take place in Silverdale, Thistleberry, Keele, Madeley, Maer and Whitmore.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth made reference to paragraph 1.3 of the report stating that the one sentence encapsulated it all.

The Leader stated that some of the Council's partners had already been involved in this and it was something that could be built upon.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the draft Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy 2025 – 28 be approved for consultation and adoption
 - (ii) That the draft strategy be referred to the Scrutiny Committees (Health, Wellbeing and Environment, Economy and Place, and Finance, Assets and Performance) for consideration and comment

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. **NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2025/26**

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing introduced a report providing an overview of successful work that had been delivered by the Community Safety Partnership in 2024/25 and planned actions for 2025/26 in response to Strategic Assessment priorities for 2025/26.

There were a number of initiatives in progress which formed part of the Local Police and Crime Plan. Priorities for 2024/25 were outlined at paragraph 2.1 of the report and a reduction in incidences were shown in all areas except for drugs related offences, compared to 2023/24. The figures were shown at paragraph 3.1 of the report. Priorities for 2025/26 were outlined at paragraph 4.1 of the report.

For this year, the Community Safety Partnership had been awarded £82,333 and projects that had been commissioned were shown at paragraph 4.3.

The Portfolio Holder for Finances, Town Centres and Growth stated that it was an encouraging report with the town improving all of the time.

The Leader endorsed Councillor Sweeney's comments adding that it was also a busy town with people living and working in it.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the report and be received and the successful

outcomes achieved in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as the work in progress to continue to tackle the strategic priorities, be noted.

- with
- (ii) That the updated Local Crime and Police Plan in line with the Strategic Assessment priorities for 2025/26 be received and endorsed
 - (iii) That the report be referred to the Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Leader introduced a report providing an update on feedback received from Government on the Council's submission of an interim plan and to agree the next steps.

Members had been informed at the last meeting that the Council was awaiting feedback from the Government on the proposal that had been put to them by this Authority and others from around the County. This had been delayed and there was a slippage in the Government's plans in that the 2028 start date for the new Council's was now seen as the most ambitious. This could give councils the opportunity to ask the Government to maybe think again and to rally support to that cause.

As part of the reply to the interim plans, a small amount of money was to be spread across Staffordshire authorities to work on them. Newcastle's plans were to investigate a number of options which it would continue to do. Meetings had taken place among Chief Executives across the County and amongst Leaders of councils too. £200,000 would be transferred from the Business Rates Reserve Fund to the Budget Support Fund to enable the Council to continue the work on Local Government Reorganisation.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council have a meeting tomorrow evening looking at options, including a North Staffordshire Authority taking in Stoke, Staffordshire Moorlands and Newcastle, and possibly parts or all of East Staffordshire and Stafford – although this Council had not been consulted. The Leader stated that he would be writing to the Leader of Staffordshire Moorlands to put this Council's position, that it was against a merger with Stoke and supported discussions around an option to work with the Moorlands.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning stated that the Council was being forced to waste money on useless and unwanted projects instead of spending it in the community.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth agreed with everything that had been said and stated that it was bizarre that Staffordshire Moorlands had come up with a scheme to be taken over by Stoke.

The Leader stated that the Government's response, as detailed in the report, again completely failed to make the case for a forced reorganisation and did not explain how it would improve services.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the receipt of Government feedback in relation to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent submissions of Interim Plans for Local Government Reorganisation, be noted.
 - (ii) That it be noted that the Council will now further engage with Government and Staffordshire Leaders through a meeting separate to the Staffordshire Leaders Board.
 - (iii) That it be delegated to the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder, Finance, Town Centres & Growth, to engage the necessary support for the work on the local government reorganisation, noting that the borough is not yet in receipt of funding from Government to partially offset any costs accrued and that the Council continues to seek a fair allocation of this funding.
 - (iv) That £200k to be transferred from the Business Rates Reserve to the Budget Support and Borrowing Fund in order to fund the work needed to submit the Council's final Local Government Reorganisation Plan.
 - (v) That Newcastle-Under-Lyme's Members of Parliament be called upon to support the Borough's resolutions as set out in the report to full Council of 19th March 2025, and that they engage with Government Ministers in stating the case for the Borough.

[Watch the debate here](#)

8. PET CREMATION OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment introduced a report setting out proposals to establish a pet crematorium at a separate location on the Bradwell site which would be run on hydrotreated vegetable oil.

There was a growing requirement for this specialist provision, especially locally as there were other options available but those were several miles away.

The service that would be provided would be both professional and bespoke and would operate totally separately from the existing service.

A confidential report on this was included on the agenda and that would be considered later under closed session.

The Leader stressed the point that this would be a separate operation to the existing one and would be welcomed by residents.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the business case for option three (one cremator with chamber) to expand Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's commercial portfolio to include the provision of pet cremations at Bradwell Crematorium, be approved.
 - (ii) That the expanded and award-winning service already offered by the Council be noted and continue the personalised approach.

- (iii) That that the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment progresses with all necessary planning and regulatory applications.
- (iv) That a further report on the final business proposals be received to ensure the procurement of the service meets all regulatory requirements and service expectations.
- (v) That the virement of funding within the capital programme, be authorised.

[Watch the debate here](#)

9. FORWARD PLAN

The Leader presented the Forward Plan.

Resolved: That the Forward Plan be received and noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

10. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no Urgent Business.

11. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

Resolved:- That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration if the following matter because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs contained within Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

12. PET CREMATION OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

**Councillor Simon Tagg
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 2.46 pm

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

02 September 2025

Report Title: Annual Report 2024-2025

Submitted by: Corporate Leadership Team

Portfolios: One Council, People & Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To provide Cabinet with the opportunity to consider the Council's Annual Report for 2024-2025, which provides a high-level summary of the progress made during the penultimate year of the Council's 2022-2026 Council Plan. The Annual Report also provides contextual information on the financial challenges and operating environment, which have informed the Council's priorities.			
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Receives and consider the Council's Annual Report for 2024-2025 Refers the 2024-2025 Annual Report to Full Council's meeting of 24th September 2025. 			
<p><u>Reasons</u></p> <p>The publication of an Annual Report is accepted good practice and a key element in the Council's governance and assurance framework providing transparency to stakeholders on progress made, the handling of key risks, the financial outlook of the authority and evidence-based strategy development.</p>			

1. **Background**

- 1.1** As part of the Council's focus on performance management this Annual Report provides an opportunity to review the progress and achievements made against the Council's stated objectives and to use this intelligence to understand what still needs to be done and what new challenges lie ahead. The Annual Report does this by including the following sections:
- Understanding our Communities - presenting a place profile for the Borough to inform decision-making
 - Listening to our Communities – detailing the consultation and engagement programme for the previous year and how this feedback has been used to inform service improvements
 - The Financial Context - outlining the financial challenges facing the authority over the course of its Medium Term Financial Strategy and how we manage risks
 - Our Vision for the Borough – as set out in the 2022-2026 Council Plan
 - Our Achievements - looking at performance against our own targets and trend data

- Value for Money Services - analysing our performance and costs against national and regional comparisons
- External Assessments - providing objectivity and assurance through the reporting of external assessments of the Council's work and any awards received in recognition of our achievements on behalf of our communities

1.2 In summary, the Annual Report provides assurance as to the progress made during the third year of the 2022-2026 Council Plan with 65% of all targets met in 2024-2025 and sound progress on our priority projects. The Report acknowledges the funding gap outlined within the 5-year Medium Term Financial Strategy and the plans to address this.

1.3 The Annual Report will be published on the Council's website as an important stakeholder document written for councillors, partners and employees and will remain a central element in the Council's annual performance management framework.

2. Recommendation

That Cabinet:

1. Receives and consider the Council's new Annual Report for 2024-2025
2. Refers the 2024-2025 Annual Report to Full Council's meeting of 24th September 2025.

3. Reasons

3.1 The publication of an Annual Report is accepted good practice and a key element in the Council's governance and assurance framework providing transparency to stakeholders on progress made, the handling of key risks, the financial outlook of the authority and evidence-based strategy development.

4. Options Considered

4.1 At this time, it is felt there is no other option necessary for consideration, however the presentation of information is continually reviewed.

5. Legal and Statutory Implications

5.1 The Council has a Best Value duty to provide value for money services.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no differential equality issues arising directly from this report

7. Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 None from this report.

8. Major Risks & Mitigation

8.1 No new major risks have been identified through the process of developing the Annual Report.

9. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



10. One Council

Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council ☒

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

One Digital Council ☒

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

One Sustainable Council ☒

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.

10.1 The annual report sets out progress against One Council delivery.

11. Key Decision Information

11.1 This is not a key decision.

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

12.1 Not relevant

13. List of Appendices

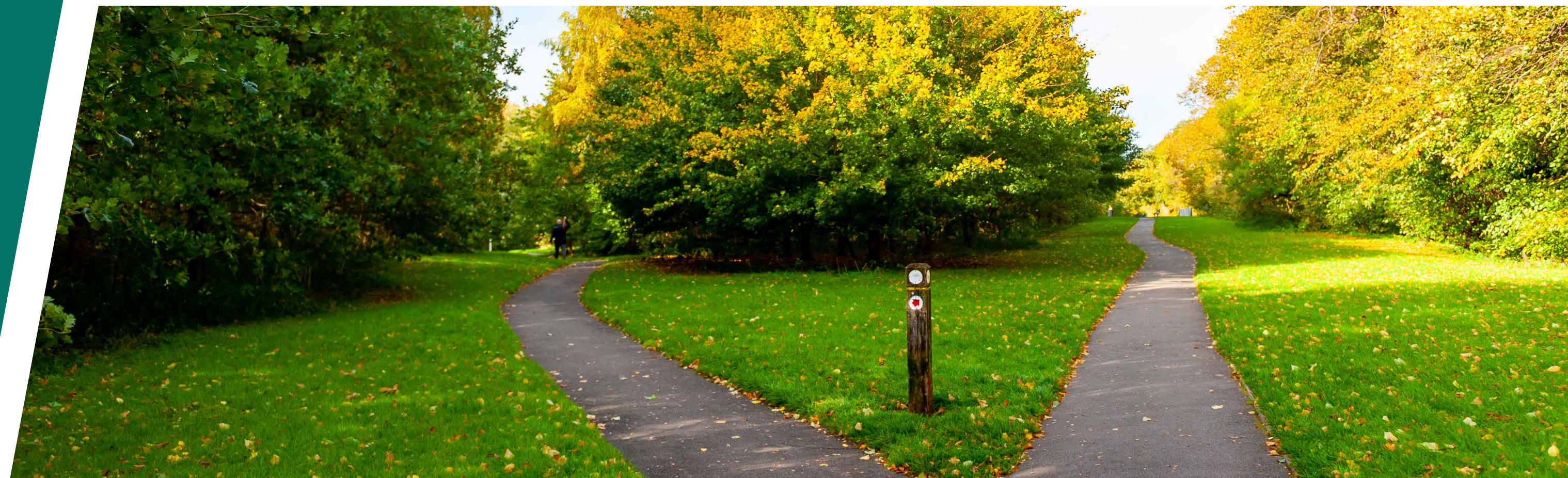
13.1 Appendix 1 - Annual Report 2024-2025 [Link to be added in final version](#)

14. Background Papers

14.1 Working papers held by Strategic Hub Team.

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Annual Report 2024-2025



NEWCASTLE·UNDER·LYME
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Introduction

Welcome to the Council's Annual Report for 2024-25, which outlines the progress we've made against the priorities for the Borough during the penultimate year of our 2022-2026 Council Plan. Alongside a review of our performance, the Annual Report also highlights some of the common issues facing our residents and how we have engaged with local communities to help shape local solutions and service improvements. It also looks at the financial challenges faced by the Council and across the local government sector as a whole, and our plans to continue providing value for money services.

2024-25 marked the transition to delivery stage for the Council's £85m town centre regeneration schemes with the construction of the new Castle Car Park, which opened in early 2025 and will unlock further development on The Ryecroft, Midway and Astley Place – all of which now have planning permission in place, partnership agreements signed and some early preparatory work already underway. Similarly, we've gone from strength to strength with our work supporting business growth, employment and skills through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and our success in delivering £4.8m in projects has resulted in the government granting Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council a further £1.5m to support 24 new projects for the next 12 months, including a new support Hub at Navigation House to help vulnerable people stay off the streets.

The Council continues to actively support our communities and last year launched our new 'Civic Pride' initiative which works with local people to make areas cleaner, safer and friendlier. There has been a round of action days across the Borough

and this year we've launched a new Civic Pride Investment Fund to provide further financial support to improve the quality of life in local areas. We continue to champion residents' concerns over the future of Walleys Quarry following the closure of the site earlier this year and are working closely with the Environment Agency who now have control over the site.

We enjoy strong and creative partnerships across the public, voluntary and statutory sectors, and work together to improve outcomes for our residents in terms of health, employment, and community safety. We are also fiercely proud of our loyal and ancient Borough and although we welcome the opportunities that devolution could bring to the Staffordshire area through increased funding and autonomy, we have expressed our concerns to central government over the forced reorganisation of local government which could see much larger councils operating at a greater distance from the voices of the communities they serve. We will be lobbying at every opportunity to retain the Borough Council and to continue to 'deliver good local services, a prosperous Borough, safe and welcoming places for all' – in line with our Vision. This Annual Report demonstrates how we are achieving that. We hope you find it interesting and informative!



Cllr Simon Tagg

Leader of the Council



Gordon Mole

Chief Executive

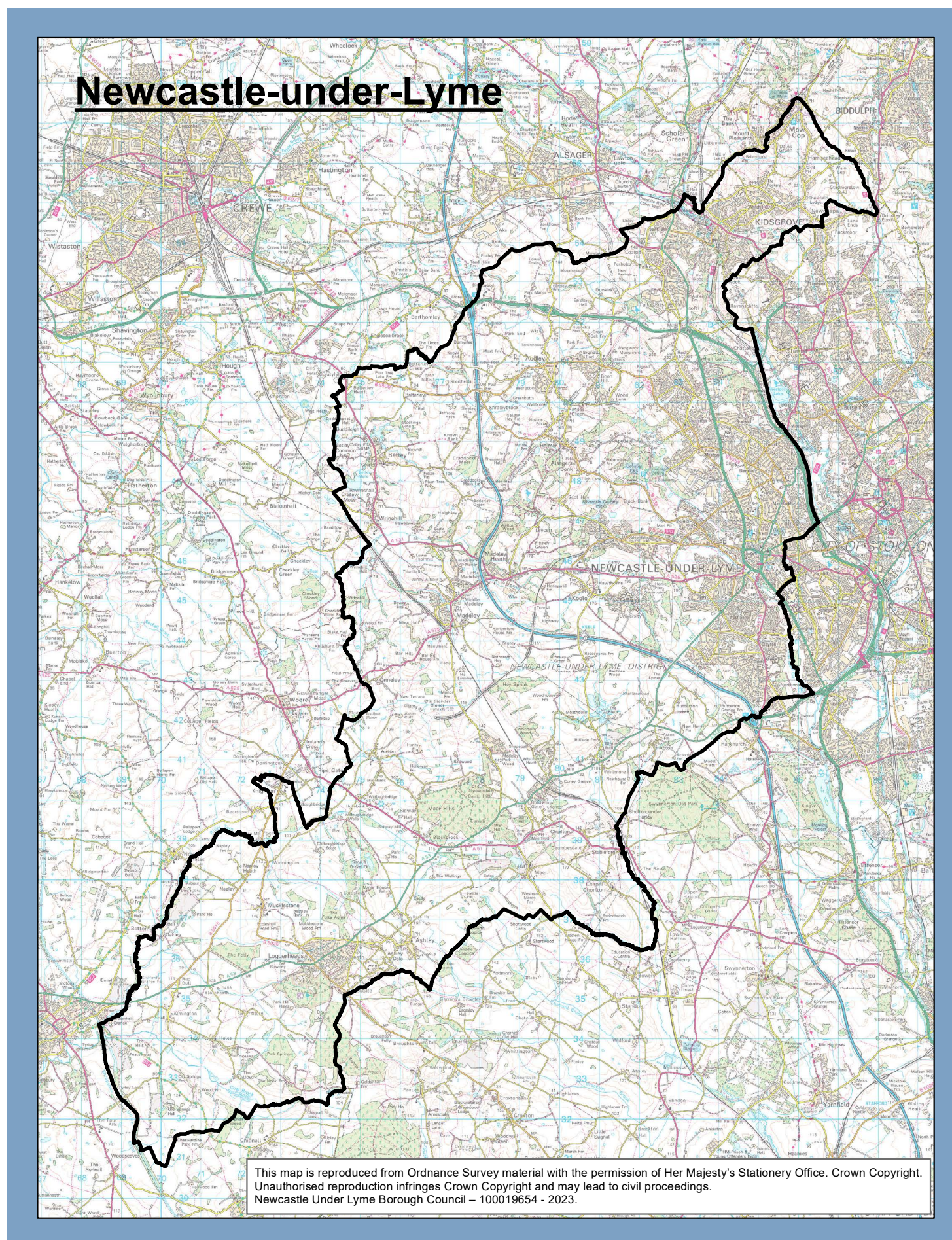


Executive Summary – Progress on a Page

- We completed the new £12 million Castle Car Park as part of the wider £85m town centre regeneration programme
- We set a balanced budget for 2025-26 against a backdrop of challenges facing the sector
- We hosted the Borough's first Business Festival, with a series of workshops and guest speakers during the week-long event
- We launched the Civic Pride initiative with a series of local action days across the Borough
- We have allocated £17m of Town Deal monies in Newcastle, resulting in Keele in Town, a new circular bus service and ground works for new housing at Chesterton and Knutton to name just a few of the projects included
- We brought 23 empty homes back into use and supported 188 adaptations under disabled facility grants
- The Council continued to expend considerable time and resources in monitoring the Walleys Quarry odour problem in order to secure a successful resolution to this issue through our limited enforcement powers, including potential legal action
- We met 65% of our targets in 2024-2025
- We maintained high standards of street cleanliness across the Borough and deployed our Neighbourhood Delivery Team to carry out efficient enforcement action to support this effort
- We adopted our new Sustainable Environment Strategy and Delivery Plan to direct our emissions reduction targets and were successful with our bid to the government's decarbonisation fund for £3.2m of investment
- We successfully completed Phase 1 of the Shared Prosperity Fund, delivering 33 projects focused on community development, people and skills, and support for local businesses. This phase created over 120 new jobs and up skilled more than 300 employees
- We expanded our sector leading food waste collection service to incorporate flats and are compliant with the new national 'simpler recycling' regulations
- We submitted our draft Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate following extensive stakeholder consultation
- We began renovation work to transform Navigation House into a Homeless Hub, complete with Managed Accommodation aimed at tackling and reducing homelessness in the town centre
- We built new changing rooms at the Wammy, which are operated by Newcastle Town FC, as part of our Playing Pitch Strategy
- We continued our work in addressing anti-social behaviour with a new car cruising PSPO and improved CCTV
- We received over 590 referrals on to our new Active Life programme with 75% of users saying that their health had improved
- Our work on tourism, bereavement services, street cleanliness and people management has been recognised and celebrated through a raft of nominations and awards



Section 1: Understanding our Communities



Our historic Borough is a place of marked contrasts. We are the home of a world class University at Keele, a leading light known internationally for its research and sustainability record, which stands side by side with former mining communities including some which register amongst the most deprived areas in the country. Our Borough is also a mixture of urban centres, affected by some of the same social issues facing our neighbouring city, Stoke-on-Trent, but also outstanding rural landscapes containing many smaller settlements with their own challenges. Our plans and priorities aim to address the needs of all our communities.

The Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme covers an area of 211 square kilometres and has a population density higher than that of Staffordshire at 607 residents per square kilometre. The population of the Borough, based on the 2024 Mid-year Estimate, is 127,700 with 51% female and 49% male. The 58,500 households are spread across a mix of urban and rural areas, with two town centres – Newcastle-under-Lyme and Kidsgrove - and a number of rural and urban villages across the Borough.

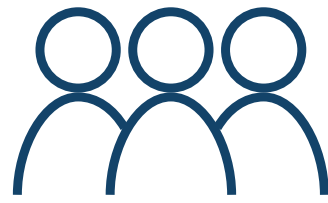
We recognise the importance of place data in decision making and service design and produce an annual 'State of the Borough' Digest, which includes key facts and figures on the make-up of the Borough and the common issues being faced by our residents. We have highlighted below two of the known challenges and how we are addressing them, often in conjunction with our local partners.



Newcastle-under-Lyme Facts and Figures

28%

OF THE POPULATION
ARE AGED
60 AND OVER



90%

OF RESIDENTS
IDENTIFY AS
'WHITE BRITISH'

47%

OF RESIDENTS HAVE
RQF LEVEL 4
OR ABOVE



MEDIAN
HOUSE PRICE
£195,200



AVERAGE WEEKLY SALARY OF
£675 FOR FULL-TIME
WORKERS

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH
FOR MALES IS
79.0 YEARS
AND FEMALES IS
83.0 YEARS



76.5%

OF RESIDENTS AGED
16 - 64
WERE ECONOMICALLY
ACTIVE



17%

OF HOUSEHOLDS
IN THE BOROUGH
LIVE IN
FUEL POVERTY

Skills, Qualifications and Employment

Residents in the Borough tended to have similar qualifications to the national average and higher than the regional average. According to the ONS Annual Population Survey 2024, an estimated 47% of residents in the Borough have RQF level 4 or above. This is very similar to the national rate of 48% and higher than the West Midlands' 43%. Latest data also shows that an average of 77% of residents aged 16-64 were economically active, just below the region (78%) and the country (79%). However, employees who live in the borough tend to earn less with an average weekly salary of £675 for full-time workers, compared to £690 across the West Midlands region and £730 for Great Britain.



Spotlight on: Encouraging Skills and Employment

Shaping the Future – Newcastle’s first Business Festival

In March 2025, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council hosted its first ever business festival in conjunction with partners from across the area. The 5-day event had a different theme each day and featured a mix of local and national speakers as inspirational role models who shared their personal journeys.

Day 1 – Entrepreneurs: Featuring Chris Daniels from CyberKiln as the local role model and Keith Brymer Jones as the keynote speaker. The audience was given an oversight into their career journeys and the opportunity to ask questions. Drop in events were hosted around the town centre later in the day, alongside a business market by the Guildhall.

Day 2 – Innovation: A business expo was hosted at the Denise Coates Centre at Keele University giving local companies the opportunity to showcase their talent. Speakers focused on the theme of Industrial Strategies and the impact of AI.

Day 3 - Business Networking: A second business market was hosted around the Guildhall and local speakers provided inspiration at a series of talks around the town centre.

Day 4 - Women in Business: Several female speakers from local companies were able to tell their personal stories of how and why they started their own businesses and who and what were the key influencers for this growth. The sessions proved to be hugely popular with a sell-out audience and many delegates wanting more.

Day 5 concluded the Festival with an open doors day where a number of local businesses opened their doors, welcoming visitors to find out more about the services on offer.

The whole experience provided an opportunity to celebrate doing business in Newcastle, showcase the range of support that is available to help businesses grow and to give local entrepreneurs the opportunity to meet like-minded people.





Crime

In 2024, the recorded crime rate per 1,000 population in Newcastle-under-Lyme was the fourth lowest across the Staffordshire boroughs, following an 8% fall since 2023. The rate of almost all types of crime is now lower than the average across Staffordshire. Addressing instances of anti-social behaviour and of nuisance remain a key priority for the community safety partnership, alongside supporting the night-time economy through safe space provision and the innovative street medics approach, which reduces pressure on the local NHS.

Spotlight on: Safer Communities

The Council is a strategic partner in the Newcastle Community Safety Partnership. We work together with partners to address community safety issues in line with the Local Crime and Police Plan which looks to deliver the strategic community safety priorities.

The following initiatives were completed in 2024-2025:

- Introduction of the car cruising Public Space Protection Order
- Safe Space – Ran by volunteers on Friday evenings from 9pm-2am
- Knife Amnesty – our teams work with partner agencies to raise awareness around knife crime and conduct weapon sweeps across our parks and open spaces
- Spiking awareness training – delivered to a number of licensed premises within Newcastle-under-Lyme
- Street Medics – the medics were commissioned from the PFCC Community Safety Fund to allow us to set up a triage service to support the nighttime economy
- Dizzy Heights youth provision – running at Chesterton Vision and Clough Hall, this provision, again funded from the PFCC Community Safety Fund, provided diversionary activities in these areas.

Section 2: Listening to our Communities

Consultation and engagement with our communities continues to play an important role in informing decision-making across the Council, helping to ensure that we deliver services that meet the needs of local people.

Throughout 2024-25 we have conducted annual satisfaction surveys and ad hoc consultations to enable evidence-based decisions and the shaping of future service delivery. We are careful to ensure that our consultations capture the views of a range of residents to really understand what matters.

Safer Communities - In Summer 2024 we carried out a consultation to decide if residents supported the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order to deal with car cruising, and results showed that they were. Since the PSPO was introduced, we have seen a decrease in the number of car cruising reports across the Borough. Staffordshire Police have welcomed the order, which provides them with additional powers to deal with the matter.

Brampton Museum - We carried out a satisfaction survey for visitors to Brampton Museum, enabling the team to see how happy visitors were with their visit. We

provided robust evidence that showed that, with a large response, a significant majority of visitors were very satisfied.

Waste and Recycling - We carried out surveys for Recycling and Waste where we evaluated how many local businesses of various sizes were aware of forthcoming changes to legal requirements around recycling trade waste. This has helped our teams know which changes most needed to be publicised amongst the business community.

Strong Financial Discipline - As we do every Autumn, we carried out an annual Budget Consultation. This enables residents to tell us what their priorities are for the future, as we ask which services they value the most, where we should target income generation, and what we could do to improve their lives. The results were reported to Cabinet, allowing members to make informed decisions in allocating resources. The results of this consultation told us that, as in previous years, residents' top priority was continued town centre regeneration in line with our priority of town centres for all.



Section 3: The Financial Context

The Council is committed to the delivery of high-quality services. Integral to this is the need to effectively target financial resources in line with our stated aims and objectives whilst also working against the background of an adverse economic situation nationally. For more detailed information you can read the published Statement of Accounts.

Revenue

The Council actively manages all of its resources to ensure it delivers the services that local people need, and to prepare for future challenges. The priority actions under 'One Council Delivering for Local People' include workforce development, community engagement, partnership working, financial discipline, high quality value for money services and delivering the transformational One Council Programme, which made recurrent savings of £1.173m.

During the year, the Council has had to use resources (both financial and staff time) in dealing with an environmental crisis due to Hydrogen Sulphide (H²S) escaping from a local landfill site. The scale of work undertaken by the Council on this issue has soaked up a huge amount of corporate resource but has resulted in a greatly improved situation for local residents and securing an Abatement Notice against the site operator – a rare achievement on an Environment Agency regulated site. Since the abatement notice was issued the operators have continually breached the acceptable levels of Hydrogen Sulphide (H²S) being emitted, which has resulted in the Environmental Agency ceasing the operator's licence. As a result of this the operators, Walleys Quarry Limited, have now gone into administration.

Capital

A Capital Programme totalling £16.680m was approved for 2024-25, excluding £1.000m contingency. Of this total, £10.135m relates to the total cost of new schemes for 2024-25 together with £6.545m for schemes funded by external sources (Town Deals Fund, Future High Streets Fund and Disabled Facilities Grants). In addition, £42.174m was brought forward from the 2023-24 Capital Programme (including £25.641m from the Town Deals Fund and the Future High Streets Fund), the Council's contribution towards the construction of a new multi storey car park (£8.100m) and fleet replacement (£4.751m) resulting in a total Capital Programme of £59.855m for 2024-25 (including a £1.000m contingency).

A mid-year review of the Capital Programme for 2024-25 was undertaken as part of the Efficiency Board and budget setting process to identify any projects that may need to be re-profiled from 2024-25 into future years. The revised Capital Programme for 2024-25 totalling £51.295m was approved by Cabinet on 3 December 2024. Actual expenditure has totalled £26.236m, £25.059m below that planned. This relates to expenditure that has been rolled forward into 2025-26 (£23.553m) including projects planned under the Town Deals funds that will be progressed during 2025-26 (£18.354m) and the Council's contribution towards the development of Astley Place (£1.146m). There are also a number of projects whereby costs have been value engineered or whereby a decision has been made not to progress with the project until a future period (£1.506m).



Financial Recovery

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out the Council’s financial position over the next five years. This is aligned to the Council Plan 2022-2026 and is the key vehicle for ensuring efficiency in service delivery and targeting resources to priority areas. The updated MTFS was reported to Cabinet on 9 January and 4 February 2025 and reflects the impact of the Local Government Finance Settlement. The MTFS provides for a gap in 2025-26 of £1.890m and a revised gap to reflect the continued review of the capital programme, over the five-year period of the MTFS of £5.042m.

A number of savings and funding strategies have been identified as being both feasible and sustainable, via a vigorous Financial Efficiency Board process. The Financial Efficiency Board is made up of the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Town Centres, the Cabinet Portfolio Holders, the Corporate Leadership Team, and Finance Officers. During the summer months service directorates are asked to provide saving plans for the coming financial year and future years. These saving proposals are then challenged and discussed at various meetings held with the members of the Financial Efficiency Board. Once the savings proposals have been reviewed and challenged, the approved savings are put forward as part of the MTFS update and form part of the budget setting process. Savings proposals put forward can be revisited at any time.

The Council has a Civic Growth Fund which was established in 2020 for the purpose of enabling investment in corporate priorities. The Civic Growth Fund is required to be used to invest in initiatives that are forecast to generate on-going revenue savings through reducing the costs of service delivery or through the

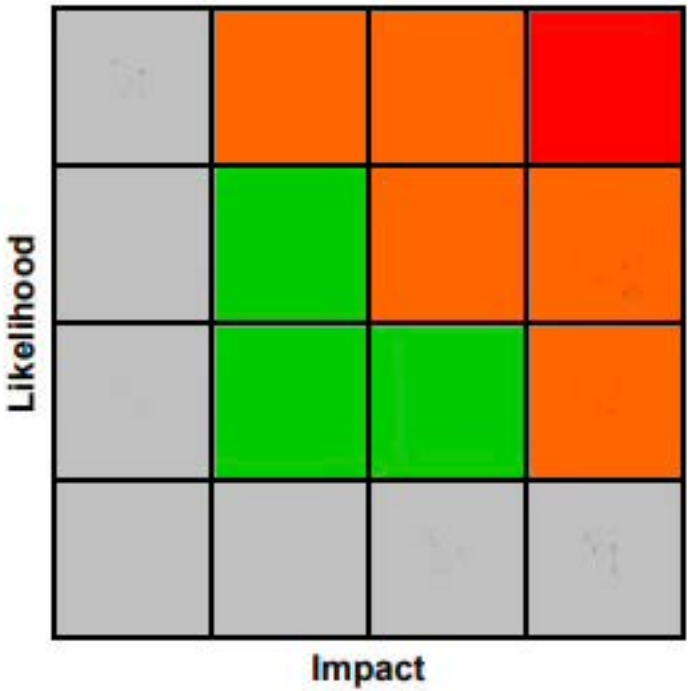
generation of additional income.

The savings and funding strategies identified will enable continued investment of £0.250m in the Council’s priorities as per the Council Plan 2022-2026 via the Civic Growth Fund. The Civic Growth Fund will continue to be used to provide pump priming investment in initiatives, including Digital Delivery, that are forecast to generate on-going revenue savings through reducing the costs of service delivery or through the generation of additional income.

The Council intends to consider ways it can facilitate and participate in the commercial and industrial development of the Borough and thereby gain access to income streams to contribute to a sustainable revenue budget. The basis for this is set out in the Commercial Strategy and the Investment Strategy.

Managing Key Risks

The Council continues to develop and maintain a systematic framework and process for managing corporate, strategic, operational, project and partnership risks and reviews this framework annually. This includes assessing risks for impact and likelihood, identifying, and allocating responsibility for their mitigation, and receiving assurances about ongoing management of these risks. The Council’s Risk Management Strategy sets out the roles and responsibilities of officers and councillors, including escalation and clear reporting lines. The Council’s ‘risk appetite’ has been agreed and mitigating actions are required for all risks that exceed this threshold.



Section 4: Our Vision and Priorities for the Borough

Good local services, a successful, sustainable borough, and safe and welcoming places for all

Outcomes	Priorities	Approach
In Newcastle		
 Residents have easy access to good quality services	 One Council Delivering for Local People	 Our Employees will be supported and empowered to succeed
 Businesses flourish and residents have access to good, well paid, jobs	 A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough	 we will work closely with valued partners to deliver skills, jobs and growth
 Everyone has the opportunity to be active, healthy and fulfilled	 Healthy, Active, and Safe Communities	 We will support our communities to improve lives and life chances
 Town Centres are vibrant places to live, work and visit	 Town Centres for All	 We will develop opportunities which will help our town centres thrive and grow

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council will be Net Zero by 2030



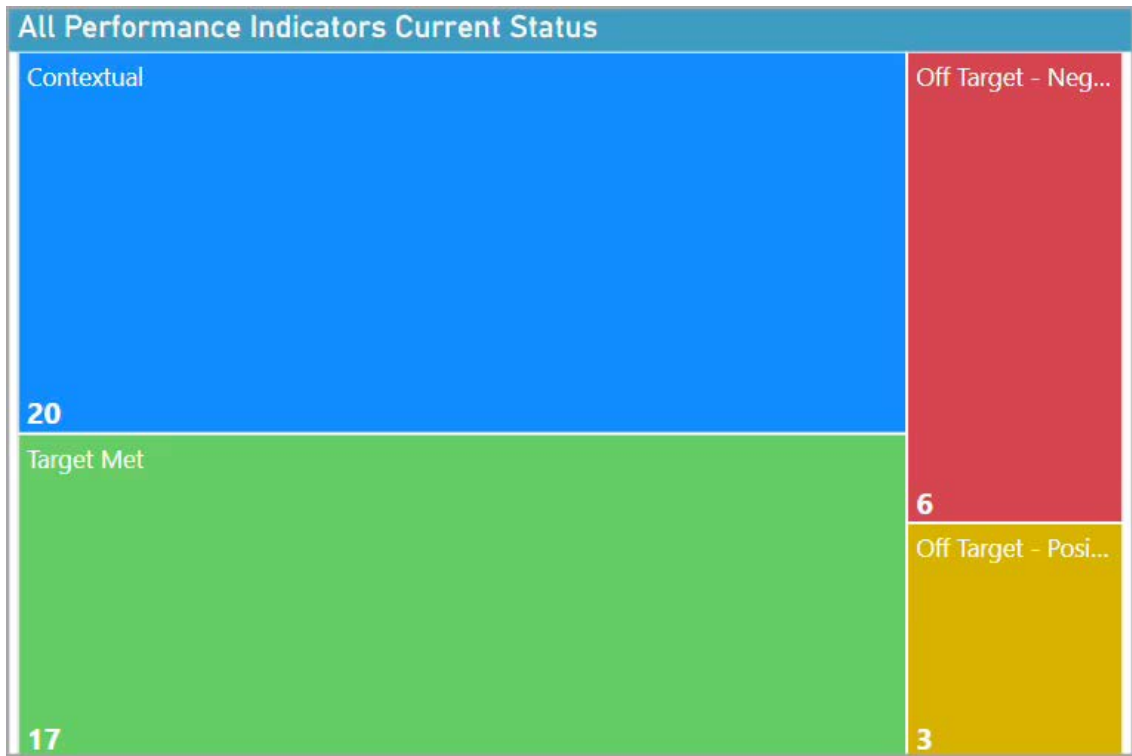
Section 5: Our Achievements

Overview of performance in 2024-25

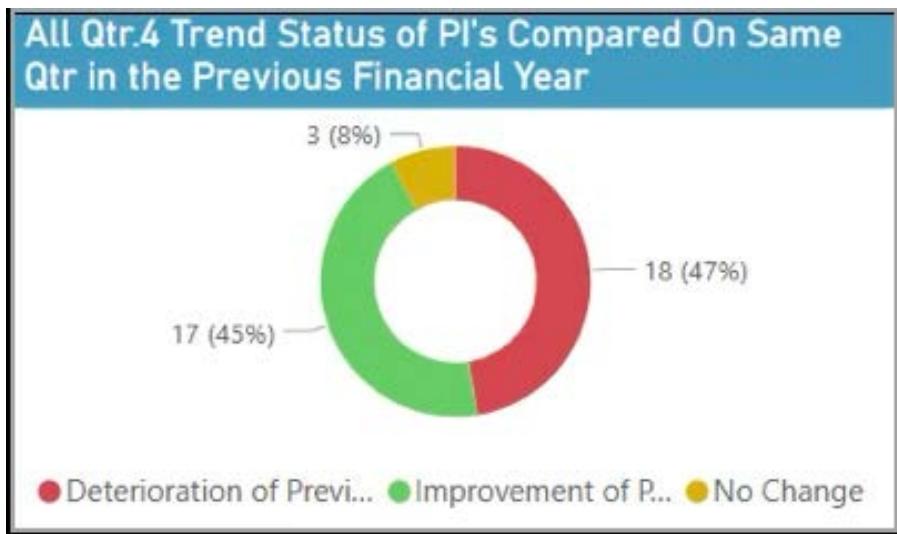
Throughout the financial year 2024-25 the Council monitored 46 key performance indicators, which were aligned with the priorities and objectives set out in our Council Plan. Following our annual Value for Money study at the end of each year, several targets were increased to drive stronger performance and deliver greater value to residents. The ongoing use of business intelligence tools has further enabled year-on-year comparisons, providing deeper insights into both seasonal and annual trends.

The 46 indicators were categorised into two key groups:

- Contextual Measures – These indicators do not have set targets and are instead compared to previous years to assess performance. This year saw 20 contextual measures monitored which was an increase of 3 from the previous year.



- Targeted Measures – These indicators are benchmarked against specific targets and reviewed both in comparison to previous years and against target values. There were 26 measures recorded this financial year that had defined targets.



65% of measures successfully met their targets in 2024-25 with nine measures falling short. Among these off-target measures, 33% still showed improvement compared to the previous financial year (2023-24). Across all indicators, 53% showed either improvement or stability in 2024-25, reflecting overall progress in key areas.

Beyond performance measures, the Council continued to advance its 26 key projects and priority actions throughout 2024-25, with three already completed in the previous financial year. 20 projects progressed as expected and are on track for timely completion. The project to deliver an economic and cultural legacy from the celebration of the Borough's 850th anniversary in 2023 was completed last year. However, two projects have faced continued challenges:

- Resolution of Walleys Quarry - the council continues to champion community concerns despite the landfill operator entering voluntary liquidation in February 2025. The level of odour complaints has now decreased dramatically
- Kidsgrove Town Deal – a review of the Railway Station project is underway with a view to revise and reduce the works due to be undertaken to move the project forward.



Priority One: One Council Delivery for Local People

Deliver services to a high standard every day

- The Brampton Museum won Bronze in the Small Visitor Attraction of the Year category at the Staffordshire Tourism Awards and Bronze for Accessible and Inclusive Tourism
- Achieved Platinum standard for our Address Gazetteer accuracy
- 2024 finalists in the APSE Best Service Team of the Year for Cemeteries and Crematorium
- Continued to process Housing Benefits new claims/change events in very quick times (four days)
- Upheld high food safety standards through our inspection programme, with only 0.4% of food premises receiving a zero or one-star national food hygiene rating.

Ensure our services are efficient and accessible

- Enabled increased customer access and flexibility to book J2 leisure sessions with over 11,000 downloads of our App
- Replaced the legacy Mitel Phone system with new Teams Telephony and AnywhereNow contact centre system, allowing us to decommission the aging Mitel servers and downsize our server estate
- Continuous enhancements to our website's information, advice, and guidance pages have empowered residents to access the right support quickly and efficiently,

leading to fewer completed forms. By seamlessly directing enquiries to the appropriate authority, these improvements are ensuring requests are resolved accurately the first time. Additionally, phone enquiries dropped by 1,158 in 2024-25, reflecting the effectiveness of digital solutions in providing streamlined support for the public.

Ensure strong financial discipline across the Council

- Brought in capital receipts of circa £1m
- Set a balanced budget for 2025-26
- Undertook a review of all single person discounts and generated an additional income of approx. £350,000 across precepting partners
- We are currently still a debt-free authority and continue to operate a financially well-managed Council
- Maintained our commitment to financial responsibility, successfully collecting 97.4% of National Non-Domestic Rates last year.

Further increasing recycling rates across the borough with a particular focus on food waste

- We bettered our target for residual waste per household in 2024-25, lowering it to 400kg, and the Council performs better than the national average
- We continue to make positive strides in improving recycling rates, with over 48%

of household waste now being reused, recycled, or composted. We have also launched collections for flexible plastics and cartons, in collaboration with Stafford Borough Council and Veolia, who manage the processing of dry recycling collected from our residents

- The expansion of the food waste collection service to flats is progressing ahead of the mandatory target set for April 2026. In preparation, we have launched a communications campaign in collaboration with Staffordshire County Council to boost participation in food waste recycling and reduce the volume of residual waste.

Secure a step change in street cleanliness and the quality of the public domain

- We continued the use of land audit surveys throughou 2024-25 to monitor and measure street cleanliness within the Borough and identify grot spot areas. Graffiti, Detritus and Fly-posting all received 100% survey scores. Litter whilst performing lower at 98%, still met its set target. The insights from these surveys will guide targeted street cleansing efforts and clearly demonstrate the continued progress made over the past year
- In 2024-25 the Council launched its new Civic Pride initiative to make the borough cleaner, safer and friendlier
- Removed graffiti from subways to improve their appearance
- Reviewed almost all park and green space signage with new maps, webpages, and physical signs.

Continue to keep Council Tax low for the Borough's residents

- We effectively managed the Council's commercial property portfolio and achieved a 92.5% occupancy rate, bringing in revenue in excess of £1m

- Exceeded our target for room hire income generation by 139% at the Brampton
- Successfully delivered a highways grass cutting contract on behalf of Staffordshire County Council Highways, and have been awarded an extended contract term
- The Council has launched a new Commercial Programme, following our successful One Council principles, which has already identified over 50 commercial opportunities covering both income generation and cost avoidance.

Develop professional talent across the Council and provide opportunities for staff to grow their careers

- We continue to work towards Silver Thrive accreditation, a process which encourages us to constantly improve our health and well-being offering. One of the most popular schemes has been the onsite health scales, allowing staff to monitor a range of health factors and whether these improve over time
- Built on our relationship with local colleges to support six T-level students for the first year of two-year placements within the council
- Our annual values survey demonstrated improvements in employee engagement and satisfaction
- Continued to ensure we have adequately trained staff for emergency response roles as part of the council's responsibilities as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act
- Used more of the apprenticeship levy to enable employees to progress with their professional development
- The average number of sick days taken by employees has continued to decline over the past year



Priority 2: A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough

A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits

- Successfully completed Phase 1 of the Shared Prosperity Fund (January 2023 – March 2025), delivering 33 impactful projects focused on community development, people and skills, and support for local businesses. This phase created over 120 new jobs, upskilled more than 300 employees, and saw the planting of over 20,000 trees. Under the community theme, over 65 volunteering opportunities were created across the third sector, resulting in 85 activity attendances. In March, the Borough Council hosted its inaugural five-day Business Festival, celebrating UKSPF-backed success. With daily attendance averaging more than 100 delegates, the event spotlighted themes such as innovation, entrepreneurship, business networking, and Women in Business—highlighting strong collaboration among local partners
- Around £17 million of the Newcastle Town Deal allocation is now contractually committed, with all projects having reached key delivery milestones—and some now completed. Recent developments include the opening of Keele in Town and the launch of a new circular bus route serving Keele, Knutton, Chesterton, Cross Heath, Silverdale, and key business parks. The phased rollout of Real-Time Passenger Information at key bus stops continues. Groundworks have begun for new housing developments in Knutton and Chesterton. A delivery partner has been appointed and mobilised for the rollout of a new fibre network across the Town Deal area. Electric vehicle chargers have been installed at Castle Car Park, and further planning has advanced for the proposed conversion of the Midway Multi-Storey Car Park into residential accommodation.



Support the sustainable development of our towns and villages

- A key milestone has been reached with the successful submission of the Borough Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate in December 2024. This marks a significant step forward in shaping the future of the area. The Plan is now set to undergo formal examination, with Hearing sessions taking place in May and June 2025. Subsequent stages will be guided by the appointed Inspector's direction and the progress made throughout the examination process
- We made significant strides in supporting development across the Borough by ensuring timely decision-making on planning applications. Over a 24-month rolling period up to the end of March 2025, we achieved a 91.5% on-time processing rate for major applications and an impressive 95.9% for non-major applications; both reflecting an improvement on the previous year's performance. These results evidence our continued commitment to efficient service delivery and sustainable growth.

Protecting our communities by improving how we use our enforcement powers

- Investigated 130 complaints relating to food safety and 326 infectious disease notifications
- Removed 47 severe hazards to health and 117 high risk hazards to health from private rented sector accommodation
- Carried out 428 checks on DBS certificates to ensure the continuing suitability of our taxi drivers
- Reviewed 311 noise complaints and 186 pollution related complaints

- 72% of complainants were informed within the required timescales regarding alleged breaches of planning control, which is a notable improvement on the previous year
- Walleys Quarry has seen a marked improvement, with the site now closed to incoming waste and odour complaints dropping dramatically—from 1,620 in January 2025 to just 41 by the end of March 2025. In February 2025, Walleys Quarry Limited entered voluntary liquidation and the site is now under the Environment Agency's control.

Ensuring that the Council's operations are carbon neutral by 2030 and the Borough by 2050

- Adopted the Sustainable Environment Strategy and Delivery Plan
- Calculated our Carbon Footprint and supported work that contributed to a 14% reduction in emissions, mostly due to HVO use
- Delivered Phase 6 of the Borough Tree Planting Strategy
- Commenced Carbon Literacy Training for all staff with the aim to have between 150-200 members of staff trained by the end of 2025

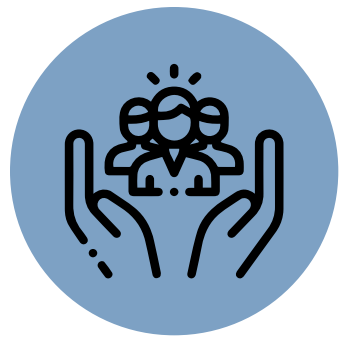


- Facilitated over 80 Sustainable Environment engagements from case study presentations, stalls, events, activities with schools, residents, and businesses
- Successfully adopted a Grassland Management Strategy
- Successfully supported a £3.2m funding bid from the Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
- Developed a Business Sustainability Guide



Ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live

- Brought 23 empty homes back into use
- Housed 485 households via the housing register
- Enabled land remediation at Knutton and Chesterton for Aspire Housing to build much needed new homes on brownfield land
- Supported 143 Disabled Facilities Grant applicants, equating to 188 adaptations, allocating a total spend of £1.5m
- We have partnered with Aspire to secure funding which will enable us to support individuals affected by hoarding
- The number of verified rough sleepers remained relatively steady throughout the year with seven recorded cases at the end of March. Renovation work is now underway on a Shared Prosperity Fund-backed project to transform Navigation House into a Homeless Hub, complete with Managed Accommodation aimed at tackling and reducing homelessness in the town centre. In addition, the team has successfully secured further funding through the Rough Sleeper Initiative to sustain and enhance our ongoing support for rough sleepers.



Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities

Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in our communities

- Safe Space - the project continues to run with volunteers on Friday evenings from 9pm-2am. This space is used to provide a hub for those who are on a night out
- Collaboration with the Local Policing Team continues to be effective, leading to a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Efforts remain focused on Newcastle Town Centre, with the installation of additional CCTV cameras and the enforcement of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to enhance safety and security. These measures contribute to maintaining a safer community while deterring unwanted behaviours
- Introduced two new youth diversionary activities in Clough Hall and Chesterton, working with local provider Dizzy Heights
- By the end of the year, there were 30 open Anti-Social Behaviour cases. New cases reported varied throughout the year, however January to March 2025 saw 26 fewer complaints compared to the same quarter in 2024. Additionally, it must be noted that every quarter recorded fewer new cases than its corresponding quarter from the previous year, indicating a positive downward trend in ASB incidents.

Ensure that our most vulnerable residents are supported through the impact of the rising cost of living.

- Throughout the year, 205 referrals were made regarding vulnerability by participating organisations at the Daily Hub. This proactive approach has been instrumental in helping vulnerable individuals access the right support and resources within the Borough

- Collaboration with the Newcastle Partnership remains strong in efforts to support vulnerable residents. The Prevent and Protect agendas are embedded in daily operations, enhancing community safety and confidence. Additionally, the Better Health Programme continues to positively influence the physical health of local communities, while the Partnership Board fosters meaningful collaboration among various organisations, ensuring a united approach to key community goals.

Support the development of community solutions to local problems

- We have built new football changing rooms at the Wammy, which are to be operated by Newcastle Town Football Club. Development of changing rooms at the Wammy has been in a long-term improvement plan for the area; and is a priority for the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy. The changing rooms have been funded from a mix of Council monies, Newcastle Town Deal and Football Foundation funding
- We have collaborated with key partners to establish effective community organisations. The Civic Pride programme is actively progressing, with successful events held in Kidsgrove, Chesterton, Holditch, Crackley, and Red Street. This initiative is supported through a strong partnership with Staffordshire County Council, Aspire Housing, and Staffordshire Police, ensuring meaningful community engagement and positive local impact
- Jubilee2 experienced a steady increase in membership throughout the year, enhancing fitness support and expanding exercise opportunities for residents across the Borough. By the year's end, membership had reached 4,119, reflecting its growing impact on community health and well-being.



Priority 4: Town Centre for All

Increasing the number of people living, working and using Newcastle town Centre

- Newcastle-under-Lyme Business Improvement District (BID), in collaboration with Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, celebrated a tremendous double win at the prestigious Heart of England in Bloom Awards 2024
- Held a varied series of exhibitions at the Brampton, each attracting over 10,000 visitors
- Capital & Centric has commenced preparatory work for the redevelopment of the Midway
- Market occupancy saw a significant boost in 2024-25, with average stall occupancy reaching 76%—surpassing the set target and marking a 4% increase from the previous year. This positive trend was reflected across all markets, including the general market, which recorded a 30% improvement compared to the year prior.

Continuing to work with key partners to deliver the redevelopment of opportunities across the borough

- Completed delivery of the £11.4 million Future High Street Fund which has enabled construction of Castle Car Park and opened up new development opportunities at Ryecroft for residential delivery by McCarthy Stone, Capital & Centric and Aspire. This has also



funded the partial demolition of York Place to enable its re-imagining as Astley Place, a commercial and residential hub in the town centre

- Disposing of land in Knutton to Aspire Housing and Staffordshire County Council to facilitate the regeneration of Knutton village
- Through Newcastle Town Deal, we supported the creation of Keele in Town which opened its doors in January 2025. This is a new community hub from Keele University which will deliver training to local people and host courses from Newcastle College Group, alongside hosting cultural events and being available as a meeting venue and acting as a hub for students living in the town

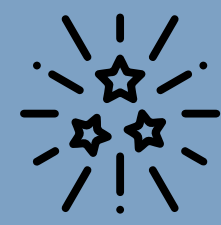
Developing a Town Centre Strategy for Kidsgrove

- Work started on refurbishment of the Trent & Mersey canal towpath in Kidsgrove, including improved access from Kidsgrove station and opening up the footpath along the Macclesfield canal
- Completed the refurbishment of ground floor and first floor areas at Kidsgrove Town Hall now occupied by Aspire Housing.

Further enhance the historic market and public realm and boost our signature specialist market programme

- Delivered a programme of event markets throughout the year – Castle Artisan Market, Greyhound Gap, Vegan Market, Record Fair, Makers Market, and the new Advent Market
- Completed planned improvement to the public realm in Newcastle town centre

Section 6: Value for Money Services – Are we delivering?



Top of the Class!

For the Council to know how it is performing we don't just look at our targets and trends but also at how we compare to other councils; both in terms of cost and performance. In this way we can demonstrate that our services to our customers and communities represent value for money.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council performs amongst the top 25% of councils in the country for the following services:

- High percentage of minor and 'other' planning applications processed on time
- Low cost of collecting Council Tax
- Quick processing of Benefit change events and new claims combined
- Low numbers of households in temporary accommodation

In addition, we perform amongst the top 50% of councils in the country for:

- Low numbers of complaints
- Low waste collection costs
- Processing of 'major' planning applications on time
- Low fly-tipping incidents
- Low cost of development control
- Low residual household waste
- High recycling rates
- Fly tipping enforcement activity



Nevertheless, there are some areas where we would like to improve the Council’s relative performance and we’re already making good progress through spatial planning, harnessing technology, targeting hot spot areas and working in partnership on joined-up problem solving in order to design and deliver the best services we can for our customers and communities:

One Council Programme

The original One Council programme concluded in 2024 after releasing over £1m from our annual spend. We have used the programme’s guiding principles and project structures to focus on three new areas in 2024-25:

- One sustainable council – meeting our 2030 and 2050 net zero targets
- One commercial council – identifying and implementing income generation projects
- One digital council – harnessing innovative technologies to streamline processes and improve customer experience

Local Plan

A new Local Plan which provides the blueprint for future development across the Borough through to 2040 has been making significant progress in 2024 with widespread consultation and engagement events taking place. Our draft Plan was submitted to the government’s Planning Inspectorate in late 2024 and is being examined this summer in a series of hearings. We expect the outcome this autumn, followed by formal adoption once approved.

Environmental Enforcement

Our Neighbourhood Delivery team officers are taking a proactive approach to improving the environment by targeting a number of grot spot areas, educating

residents on waste matters and if necessary, taking enforcement.

The team are leading a project to address concerns around trade waste and ensuring compliance across the Borough. The project will initially start in Newcastle town centre. Fixed Penalty Notices continue to be utilised for environmental offences and successful prosecutions are being promoted via the corporate pages. The team are continuing to expand their knowledge and have undertaken dog handling training to assist in their role in handling stray dogs.

Civic pride

Working with our communities is central to our council plan priorities for 2022 to 2026 and the Civic Pride initiative has been the next step forward for this collaborative work. Following the introduction of Civic Pride events in Newcastle town centre last Autumn, we have planned Civic Pride days of action in every part of the Borough in 2025, engaging with residents, in partnership with the County Council, Staffordshire Police, Aspire Housing and the third and business sectors in order to make the Borough a cleaner, safer, and friendlier place for all.

We have engaged with groups from pre-school to pensioner, sporting clubs and community associations across the borough and this year we have launched a £22,000 Civic Pride Investment Fund, which will enable local organisations to apply for money to help with activities, events or tools for litter picks and planting.



Active Lifestyles



We know that activity is a key factor in a healthy lifestyle, and we are aware that activity levels across the Borough are lower than in some council areas. We are committed to supporting healthy and active communities through a range of strategies, such as the provision of first-class sporting facilities. At J2, our council-owned leisure centre, we have launched our new 'Active Life' referral programme, following the award of grant funding. The programme covers six referral paths tailored to support residents suffering from long term health conditions. In

2024-25 over 590 referrals have been made across the programme and the health outcomes speak for themselves but in the words of one user "my confidence level has improved greatly, my balance has improved, and it has given me the courage to do so many more things. Thanks to the team I can now continue with my life":

- 64% of participants have seen a reduction in their BMI
- 78% of participants have seen a reduction in their body fat percentage
- 80% of customers have seen an improvement in their mental well-being
- 75% of customers believe their overall health has improved

Due to the success of the Active Life Programme, additional funding has been secured to continue the scheme into 2025-26.

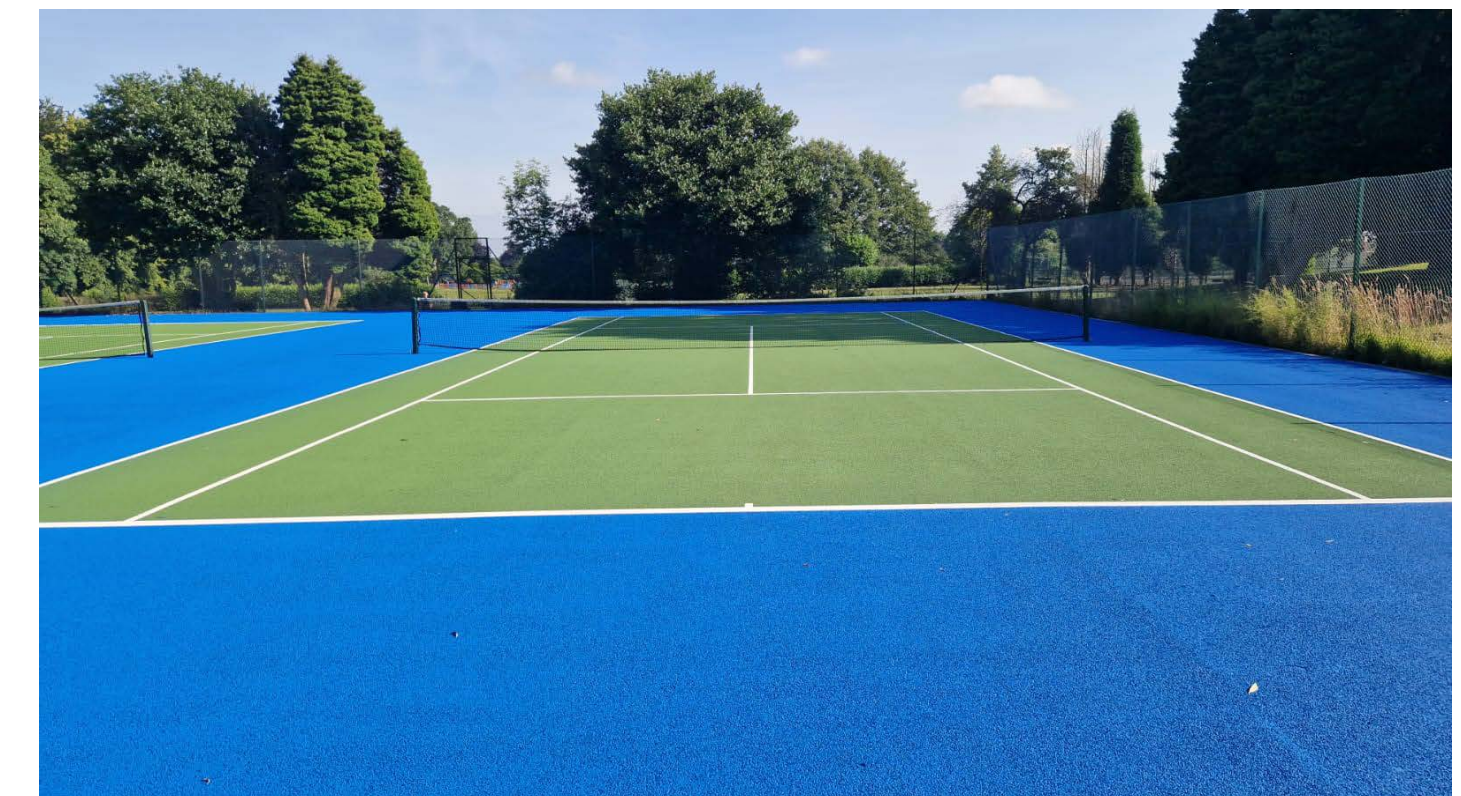


During the last 12 months there has been a growth in the number of tennis bookings at both Westlands Sports Ground and Wolstanton Tennis Courts following their recent refurbishments. Westlands Sports Ground saw the number of bookings increase to 6386 – an increase of 1738 bookings and at Wolstanton, bookings went to 1809 – an increase of 483 bookings.

The two courts at Clough Hall Park in Kidsgrove opened in July 2024 following the refurbishment of the courts with 350 bookings up to the end of March 2025.

The Council was also successful in obtaining funding through the Staffordshire Police and Fire Commissioner to run the 'Space' summer memberships at Jubilee2. There were 435 universal memberships and 30 targeted memberships for 8 to 16-year-olds, which were used over the school summer holidays. Priced at just £10, all 435 of the universal memberships were sold out before the start of the summer holidays! During the 'Space' period we had 257 male and 208 females take up the membership offer, resulting in 1,953 attendances.

Finally, the Council is also playing a key role in a new Better Health Partnership for the Borough, which seeks to work across system boundaries to improve activity levels and overall health outcomes across Newcastle-under-Lyme.



Section 7: External Assessments and Awards – don't just take our word for it!

A year after the Council took the national crown for Britain in Bloom, we're proud to have worked with Newcastle-under-Lyme Business Improvement District (BID) in 2024 on the town's submission to the awards which saw the BID celebrate a tremendous double win at the prestigious Heart of England in Bloom Awards.

Our award-winning Brampton Museum colleagues were honoured again last year after picking up four awards at the annual Visit Staffordshire tourism awards. The team were thrilled to have scooped the following:

- Bronze – Small Visitor Attraction of the Year
- Bronze - Accessible & Inclusive Tourism Award
- Highly Commended – Team of the Year
- Highly Commended – Ethical, Responsible & Sustainable Tourism Award

Congratulations also go to our Bereavement Services and Streetscene Teams who were shortlisted in the APSE 2024 Awards. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council made the shortlist for Best Service Team in the following categories:

- Parks, Grounds and Horticultural Service
- Cemetery and Crematorium Service



Last but not least on the list of awards was our People Team who were shortlisted in the PPMA Excellence in People Management Awards in the 'Best Organisation Development Programme' Category.

Huge Congratulations to all the winners and to all colleagues contributing to the Council's success!

Flying the Green Flag for our Parks and Open Spaces!

Green Flag Awards are an important benchmark and an internationally recognised accreditation for the provision of high-quality parks and green spaces. Each year locations are judged against a number of criteria including biodiversity, landscape, heritage, community safety, asset management and grounds maintenance quality, community involvement and managing resources.

Judging is undertaken by either an announced visit or a mystery shop. An announced visit involves officers 'walking and talking' with the judges explaining and illustrating aspects of the comprehensive management plans.

We're pleased to have gained six Green Flag awards for: The Brampton, Queens Gardens, Wolstanton Park, Lyme Valley Park, Bradwell Crematorium and Keele Cemetery.





NEWCASTLE·UNDER·LYME
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO

Cabinet
02 September 2025

Report Title: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2030/31

Submitted by: Service Director for Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Portfolios: Finance, Town Centres and Growth

Ward(s) affected: All

<p><u>Purpose of the Report</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>To present an update regarding the financial pressures facing the Council for the period 2026/27 to 2030/31.</p>	<p><u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The funding pressures of £1.777m in 2026/27 and £3.069m over the 5-year period covered by the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) be noted. 2. Agree the approach regarding the development of savings and income generation proposals in the medium-term. 3. Note the continued uncertainty regarding the medium-term impact of local government funding. 4. Note the letter sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Appendix B) from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth requesting further funding in respect of Temporary Accommodation. 5. Refer the first Medium Term Financial Strategy update to the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee for their views. 	
<p><u>Reasons</u></p> <p>To ensure that the Council meets its statutory duty to set a balanced budget in February 2026.</p>	

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Full Council agreed a Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2025/26 to 2029/30 in February 2025 as part of the budget setting process. This report updates the assumptions regarding financial pressures facing the Council from that time and

sets out the strategy for development of the 2026/27 budget and MTFS for 2026/27 to 2030/31.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The MTFS provides an overarching framework for the allocation of resources to the Council's key priorities as set out in the Council Plan.
- 2.2 The financial strategy will continue to focus on the need for the Council to become self-sustaining through developing a strong and growing tax base, making best use of its resources, promoting an 'everyone's responsibility' culture in which there is widespread internal ownership of the Council's financial position, a robust financial position and a fair funding settlement for Newcastle-under-Lyme.
- 2.3 The MTFS assumes that the Fair Funding Review will be completed ahead of 2026/27 which would see the accumulated growth built up since 2013/14 from Business Rates Retention being redistributed across the system alongside the introduction of a new Settlement Funding Assessment. As a member of the Staffordshire Business Rates Pool the Council currently saves in levy payments which would be payable to the Treasury if the Council ceased to be part of a pooling arrangement. In addition to this, growth within the Borough has enabled further business rates income to be retained by the Council (this has been recognised in previous savings) over and above the funding baseline set by Central Government.
- 2.4 Funding received and retained by the Council in 2025/26 that is subject to redistribution under the Fair Funding Review amounts to £9.360m, for 2026/27 it is anticipated through comprehensive modelling that this will amount to £8.396m – a reduction in funding of £0.964m. As part of the 2025/26 budget setting £0.500m was set aside to contribute to this anticipated reduction, as such a gap of £0.464m remains and has been included as a pressure to be addressed for 2026/27.
- 2.5 The Council has been successful in securing resources required to regenerate the Borough via Town Deals and Future High Street Fund funding. It is important that the Council continues to work, including closely with partners, to secure inward investment in the Borough to drive growth and employment opportunities for local people.
- 2.6 The current MTFS approved by Council as part of the budget setting process in February 2025 forecast a budget gap of £5.275m over the period 2025/26 to 2029/30 (including £1.821m for 2026/27). The MTFS is being rolled forward by a year and assumptions are constantly revisited. The current forecast around financial pressures facing the Council is for a gap in 2026/27 of £1.777m and over the 5-year period of the MTFS, £3.069m. Further details are shown in Appendix A.
- 2.7 Pressure will continue to be placed on the Council's finances in the medium term. These include inflation and interest rates that place pressure on the Council in terms of fuel and utilities, contractor costs, supplies and services and borrowing costs and the continuing rising costs of temporary and supported accommodation that the Council is required to provide for vulnerable and homeless residents.

- 2.8 The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth has recently written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer requesting further funding in relation to temporary accommodation. A copy of the letter can be seen in Appendix B.
- 2.9 In addition to the above, a budget pressure in respect of Local Government Reorganisation has been included in the MTFS. It is not yet known how much this will cost, therefore this will be closely monitored and updated.
- 2.10 With regards to the Local Government Reorganisation, the Council has continued to prepare its Medium Term Financial Strategy over a 5 year period until confirmation of transitional arrangements and dates have been received.
- 2.11 Work on the detail of the 2026/27 budget including investment and savings proposals is underway and is being overseen by an Efficiency Board chaired by the Leader of the Council. Draft budget proposals will be presented to Cabinet and the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee (FAPSC) in December.
- 2.12 The vigorous Efficiency Board process including challenge sessions for each of the Cabinet Portfolios involving Cabinet Members, the Corporate Leadership Team and Service Directors has been in operation since 2017/18. The savings and funding strategies identified for the nine year period of 2017/18 to 2025/26 amounts to £16.837m. This has enabled a balance budget position to be provided in each and every year.
- 2.13 Based on this work, key themes for further exploration are anticipated to include digital transformation, commercial opportunities, sustainable and asset management.
- 2.14 A full risk assessment is being carried out on the Council's reserves. A preliminary assessment suggests that the current General Fund reserve of £2.007m will be required to provide sufficient cover for potential risks. Further consideration of the levels of other reserves held will be considered as part of this assessment.
- 2.15 The Council agreed a 10 year Capital Strategy in February 2025. The Capital Strategy sets out how the Council will invest capital resources to support service delivery and facilitate the achievement of key objectives. The strategy has been reviewed and updated including expected capital receipts from asset disposals.
- 2.16 The capital financing requirement is estimated to increase to £42.490m by 2035/36 based on the current capital programme and the revenue implications have been reflected in the revised MTFS. It is anticipated that the current borrowing revenue budget of £0.947m will need to be increased by £0.058m to provide for borrowing costs that may be incurred during 2026/27.
- 2.17 The table below sets out the key dates of the events to take place before the budget for 2026/27 is finally approved:

Event	Committee	Date
Draft MTFS	FAPSC	4 September 2025
First draft savings proposals	Cabinet	2 December 2025
Budget consultation	Mid November to mid December	

Scrutiny of first draft savings proposals	FAPSC	4 December 2025
Approval of final MTFS & consideration of draft budget proposals	Cabinet	13 January 2026
Scrutiny of draft budget proposals	FAPSC	15 January 2026
Final budget proposals recommended for approval by Full Council	Cabinet	3 February 2026
Full Council to approve budget	Full Council	11 February 2026

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 That Cabinet note the funding gap of £1.777m in 2026/27 and £3.069m over the life of the MTFS.
- 3.2 That Cabinet agree the approach regarding the development of savings and income generation proposals in the medium term.
- 3.3 That Cabinet note the continued uncertainty regarding the medium-term impact of local government funding.
- 3.4 Note the letter sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Appendix B) from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth requesting further funding in respect of Temporary Accommodation.
- 3.5 Refer the first Medium Term Financial Strategy update to the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee for their views

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

- 4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget by February 2026. Best practice is for financial planning to take place over a 5-year period in the form of a Medium-Term Financial Strategy that sets out how the Council plans to allocate resources to meet its objectives.

5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 None.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 The MTFS is not a statutory document but it is considered best practice.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 Local authorities have a responsibility to meet the Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act 2010. The Act gives people the right not to be treated less favourably due to

protected characteristics. It is important to consider the potential impact on such groups and individuals when designing or delivering services and budgets. Budget proposals requiring changes or new services and policies will be subject to Equality Impact Assessments including consultation with affected people and organisations.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 These are addressed in the body of the report.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 Section 25 of the Local Government Acts 2003 places a duty on the Section 151 Officer to report on the robustness of the budget. The main risks to the budget include spending in excess of budget; income falling short of the budget (including capital receipts from disposal of assets); and unforeseen elements such as changes to Government funding. In the context of the cost-of-living crisis and uncertainty regarding Government funding reforms there are significant budget risks that will need to be managed. It will be essential the Council has sufficient reserves to call on if required.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**

10.1 In shaping detailed budget proposals consideration will be given to the need for investment in order to deliver the Council's Sustainable Environment Action Plan.



11. **One Council**

11.1 Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council ☒

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

One Digital Council ☒

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

One Sustainable Council ☒

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.

12. **Key Decision Information**

12.1 Final approval of the MTFS as part of the budget setting process will be a key decision.

13. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

13.1 None

14. **List of Appendices**

14.1 Appendix A – MTFS 'Gaps'

14.2 Appendix B – Letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer

15. **Background Papers**

15.1 None

Appendix A – 2026/27 to 2030/31 MTFS ‘Gaps’

Detail	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	2029/30 £'000	2030/31 £'000	Description
Employees:						
Increments	68	45	17	4	-	Employees due an increment
Pay awards	396	465	479	494	509	3% pay award assumed for all years (2026/27 includes 2025/26 difference of 0.3%)
Members pay awards	8	9	9	9	10	3% pay award assumed for all years
Superannuation increases	108	107	104	104	106	20.9% of salary increases
Superannuation lump sum increases	-	27	28	29	30	Net increase of lump sum pension payment
National Insurance	78	77	74	75	76	15% of salary increases
Premises:						
Business Rates	22	23	24	24	25	Inflationary increase in business rates payable (per CPI)
Utilities	29	30	31	32	33	Inflationary increase in gas and electric (per CPI)
Transport:						
Fuel	16	17	17	18	18	Inflationary increase in fuel/HVO (per CPI)
Financing:						
Borrowing costs	58	(9)	(53)	200	535	Borrowing costs regarding the financing of capital expenditure
New Pressures:						
ICT software	10	10	10	10	10	ICT costs re. systems maintenance and software licences
Restructuring	25	-	-	-	-	Potential additional resource requirements
Inflationary Pressures (contracts)	50	50	50	50	50	Inflationary uplifts allowance
Local Government Re-organisation	400	(200)	(200)	-	-	One off costs re. re-organisation (£400k in 2026/27, reduced to £200k in 2027/28 and nil in 2028/29)
Income:						
Fees and charges	(288)	(296)	(305)	(314)	(324)	3% increase in fees and charges assumed for all years
Settlement Funding Assessment baseline funding level	464	(535)	(535)	(95)	(96)	The Council currently receives £9.36m from Business Rates Retention and grants that are to be rolled into a new Settlement Funding Assessment for 2026/27 onwards. Initial forecasts estimate that this will amount to £8.40m in 2026/27 with increases of £0.535m in 2027/28 and 2028/29. £0.5m has already been included in the base budget for 2025/26 to allow for part of this reduction in 2026/27, a further allowance of £0.464m in 2026/27 is therefore required.
National Insurance reimbursement	233	-	-	-	-	Shortfall in grant re. National Insurance rises
Income pressures	100	100	-	-	-	General income shortfalls
TOTAL GAPS	1,777	(80)	(250)	640	982	

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Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 1 August 2025

The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
The Chancellor of the Exchequer
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1BL

By post & e-mail: public.enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk

Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer,

I am writing to you today to request your support in seeking further funding from Central Government in relation to the growing challenges faced in our borough.

In line with other local authorities, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council faces large budget shortfalls due to the continuing Cost of Living Crisis. These factors place a direct pressure on the Council's finances, they also place pressure on the boroughs residents and their ability to pay their Council Tax, Business Rates and to utilise Council provided facilities such as leisure centres and commercial properties etc.

As a result of the Cost of Living Crisis, the Council is seeing a large increase in the demand for temporary accommodation. During 2024/25 the Council spent £930k on temporary accommodation, which is around 5.4% of the Council's net budget, due to the increase in demand and increases in accommodation provider costs. Due to the lack of housing available we are finding that homeless people are having to use temporary accommodation from anywhere between 5 nights to 50 nights which is having a huge financial impact on the Council.

The Business Rates Retention reset is also a concern for us, initial forecasts indicate that this may reduce the Council's funding by £1.5m which is a considerable amount for a small local authority. Whilst there is recognition for changes, there is concern over the complexity of the changes that would be introduced in addition to the potential reduction in funding. We firmly believe that the current level of Business Rate Retention should be retained at the current rate or increased to encourage local economic growth.

In relation to businesses, this November will see the re-ballot of Newcastle's Business Improvement District where the BID will be seeking a mandate for a further 5-year term of delivery. The Council is very supportive of the BID, and has increased its partnership activity to ensure our businesses are well-supported and operate in a borough which has Civic Pride at its heart. However, there are costs associated with the ballot process which will be unrecoverable for the Council, and I would ask that Ministers consider changes to BID legislation to reduce the burden on local authorities.

Whilst Newcastle is a safe place to live, the cost of delivering community safety for reducing antisocial behaviour is an increasing pressure. The demand for further CCTV and Neighbourhood Wardens is being requested to which there is no additional available funding. The Council prioritised part of the UK Shared Prosperity Funding for this area, however it is not currently clear if this funding will continue or be cut, therefore we would request that consideration be given to extend the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in order to continue to provide this important community safety provision.

Our Council has raised major concerns around the forced Local Government Reorganisation (FLGR) process and its move away from the delivery of quality local services in Newcastle to more remote, less accountable super-councils. Following the resolution of our full Council we are nonetheless investigating options for FLGR, and have therefore needed to set aside a significant sum in our budgets of £200,000 for work on this process, money which I am sure you will appreciate would be better spent on delivery of services, including in the areas set out above. The Leader of the Council has called on our local MPs to pledge their support to the borough through the FLGR process.

In order to mitigate some of the financial pressure the Council faces, we have instigated again this year a strict budget setting process to make further efficiencies where possible while protecting frontline services. I know you have previously campaigned against national cuts which impact on Councils providing local services. We have already saved over £10 million from Council budgets since 2018. I therefore request your support in providing the authority with the additional funding needed, to assist towards the pressures faced in order to avoid the Council having to again reduce the provision of its core services.

I would like to extend an invitation to visit Newcastle-under-Lyme and understand the progress we are making and the challenges we face. I would like to thank you for taking the time to review our request and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours Sincerely



Cllr Stephen Sweeney
Deputy Leader of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and
Portfolio Holder – Finance, Town Centres and Growth

Stephen.sweeney@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Cc.: Adam Jogee MP
David Williams MP
Leigh Ingham MP

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL



CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

2nd September 2025

Report Title: Kidsgrove Town Deal Update and Contract Awards

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolios: One Council, People & Partnerships, and Finance, Town Centres and Growth

Ward(s) affected: Newchapel & Mow Cop, Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe, Talke & Butt Lane, Bradwell

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
To seek approval from Cabinet to award contracts and grant agreements for the new Enterprise Units, the community learning facility on Kings Academy, Canal pathway improvements, the highway / public realm improvements to The Meadows, Station Road, Market Street, The Avenue, Heathcote Street and Kings Street, and Station improvement works as part of the Kidsgrove Town Deal projects.			
<u>Recommendation</u> That Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the progress made with the schemes in Kidsgrove as part of the Kidsgrove Town Deal. Approves the alternative schemes following the Shared Services Hub project revisions. Approves that the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships, progresses legal agreements to enable continued delivery of projects. Notes the progress made with the delivery of the Kidsgrove Station works and agrees that a further report will be presented as soon as practicable outlining the scheme and the budget. 			
<u>Reasons</u> To seek approval from Cabinet to award contracts and enter into funding agreements for the community learning hub on the Kings Academy site, new small-scale enterprise units on the Meadows, canal pathway and access improvements, and, highway improvements earmarked from the original consultation at The Meadows / Station Road, and Market St / The Avenue / Heathcote St, along with public realm improvements by Kings Street parade, as agreed by the Kidsgrove Town Deal Board in May 2025, and to note progress made on the Kidsgrove Train Station project with a view to entering into a funding agreement with East Midlands Railway in order that works can commence as soon as possible.			

1. **Background**

- 1.1 As reported to previous Cabinet meetings, the Council has secured Town Deal Funds for the redevelopment of several key regeneration sites across Kidsgrove Town Centre and its wider area as defined in the Kidsgrove Town Deal area.
- 1.2 At its meeting in May 2025, The Kidsgrove Town Deal Board agreed revisions to the Shared Services Hub project and now the Council will be progressing these alternative schemes on the Boards behalf.
- 1.3 The most recent Kidsgrove Town Deal Board, held in July 2025, agreed a revised scheme to the Kidsgrove Train Station and a funding agreement will now be signed in order that the scheme can progress to construction on site.

2. **Updates**

2.1 Shared Service Hub Alternative Schemes

At the Kidsgrove Town Deal Board meeting held on the 29th May 2025 it was agreed that the Shared Services Hub would be replaced with the following alternative schemes.

2.2 Community Learning Hub

This new facility will be provided on the Kings Academy site as a learning resource for the wider community. The hub will provide adult learning opportunities and will see the relocation of the Academy's catering hub. It will link to a satellite facility providing targeted youth services in response to an identified lack of existing facilities and higher levels of antisocial behaviour in Kidsgrove.

The Town Deal budget for the facility is £1.5m and the Academy is currently finalising design and costs for the submission of the Project Adjustment Form to MHCLG subject to Town Deal Board approval, with completion by March 2027.

A grant agreement will be developed and signed by the Kings Academy to undertake the work.

2.3 Enterprise Units on The Meadows

The scheme proposed is that the existing car park on Meadows Road is reconfigured to create approximately 20 parking spaces. Three of these will be reserved for the users of the small business units. The business units will comprise 29 sqm / 312 sq. ft of active floor space and staff kitchen and toilet facilities.

The identified budget for the facility is £1.5m, and the Council is currently finalising design and costs for the submission of the Project Adjustment Form to MHCLG subject to Town Deal Board approval, with completion programmed for March 2027.

The Council will undertake these works directly and will undertake a procurement exercise to secure a contractor to construct these works.

2.4 Canal Pathway Improvements

Thanks to efficiencies in project delivery by the Canal and River Trust an additional area, which connects the canal towpath to the Avenue was included in the canal connectivity project. These works by the Canal and River Trust have now been

completed. The remaining element that was agreed by the Kidsgrove Town Deal Board as part of the reallocation of funds from the Shared Service Hub is to enable improvements to a Public Right of Way on a path connecting the canal towpath with a nearby residential area. Subject to confirmation by Staffordshire County Council, as this is a Public Right of Way they will be able to deliver this work. Subject to this confirmation, an agreement will be developed with Staffordshire County Council to undertake the work.

2.5 Highway improvements at The Meadows / Station Road, and Market St. / The Avenue / Heathcote St.

As previously reported to Cabinet, the schemes now consist of complete resurfacing Meadows Road / Station Road, introducing a one-way traffic system from the A50 towards the Avenue, and the introduction of uncontrolled crossing points and associated updating of kerbs, signage and road layouts.

Market Street will see the introduction of a one-way section from the Home Bargains pedestrian ramp to the junction with Heathcote Street along with a short section of time limited parking. Vine Bank Road will see the installation of speed bumps.

Improvements to the cycle and pedestrian route from Mount Road, through to Tesco will encourage a shift to more sustainable travel for short local journeys.

The budget for the facility is £1m and Staffordshire County Council is currently finalising design and costs and undertaking the required consultation. As this is part of the previously approved scheme it is continuing as previously agreed for the submission of the Project Adjustment Form to MHCLG subject to Town Deal Board approval, with completion by March 2027.

A grant agreement will be developed with Staffordshire County Council to undertake the work.

2.6 Public realm improvements to Kings Street Parade

An uplift of the public realm outside the parade of shops on Kings Street will be undertaken and improvements made to the adjacent car park at Kings Street / Heathcote Street. This will complement the one-way proposals in Market Street. The public toilets at Heathcote Street will also be refurbished.

The budget for the public realm improvements is £1.8m and the Council is currently finalising design and costs for the submission of the Project Adjustment Form to MHCLG subject to Town Deal Board approval, with completion by March 2027.

The Council will undertake these works directly and will undertake a procurement exercise to secure a contractor to construct these works.

2.7 Kidsgrove Railway Station works

As previously noted by Cabinet, there has been an issue with the costs of underpinning the car park due to subterranean mine works. EMR have submitted options to the Kidsgrove Town Deal in July 2025 who have selected a reduced in scope scheme which ensures all works are undertaken outside the 'remediation zone' (an area of the station complex that Network Rail insist needs ground remediation) thus avoiding costly ground remediation costs.

The revised scope, whilst not as ambitious as originally anticipated, will include a full refurbishment to the existing station building including a full recladding with new

windows and doors, internal updates to the toilet facilities, interior upgrades and the provision of a cycle store. The on platform waiting room will also be refurbished in a similar manner.



There will also be minor improvements to the external areas / parking areas / access points and landscaping that sit outside the remediation zone.

These works will address the stakeholder feedback at the time the Town Deal Investment Plan was established and agreed with Government and the Town Deal Board in that the station will be upgraded to a more modern facility which will attract more users of the station and the service, whilst acknowledging the fact that the works have been reduced in scope due to the complex ground conditions with the requisite cost implications.

The budget for the works is £3.85m and the costs of the of scope / scheme is now £3.35m (including risk and optimism bias allowances – normal for these type of infrastructure projects). The scheme is being worked up and approvals from MHCLG and Network Rail are being sought by EMR to mitigate risks to ensure the delivery of the scheme. A further report will be presented to Cabinet for approval to enter in agreements / contracts for the delivery of the scheme as soon as possible.

3. Next steps

- 3.1** Subject to Cabinet approval, the Council will implement funding agreements with East Midlands Railway, The Kings Academy, the Canal and River Trust and Staffordshire County Council for the works under their control (see above) and will procure a contractor for the Enterprise Units and public realm works at Kings Street. The progress of these schemes will continue to be reported to the Council, the Kidsgrove Town Deal Board and MHCLG as required.

The proposed timescale for activities is:

- Community Hub at The Kings Academy – completion by March 2027.
- Enterprise Units at The Meadows – completion by late 2026.
- Canal path improvement works – complete in 2025.
- Highway improvements at The Meadows / Station Road, and Market St. / The Avenue / Heathcote St. – completion by mid-2026.
- Public realm improvements to Kings Street Parade – Mid 2026
- Station refurbishment works – mid/late 2027

5. Recommendation

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the progress made with the schemes in Kidsgrove as part of the Kidsgrove Town Deal.
2. Approves the alternative schemes as a result of the Shared Services Hub project revisions.
3. Approves that the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships, progresses legal agreements to enable continued delivery of projects.

4. Notes the progress made with the delivery of the Kidsgrove Station works and agrees that a further report will be presented as soon as practicable outlining the scheme and the budget.



6. Reasons

- 6.1 The Council as accountable body for the Town Deal Funds it is important to receive updates on progress and risks, which are provided through the update reports to the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee.

7. Options Considered

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 8.1 The Local Government Act 2000 - powers to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Borough.
- 8.2 The Council will need to make sure that its commercial activities are legally and state aid compliant, including having regard to the Public Sector Duty within the Equality Act 2010, statutory guidance on local authority investments and The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.
- 8.3 All commercial projects and investment opportunities will be examined to ensure that they are within the Council's powers and legal implications will be identified on a case-by-case basis.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

- 9.1 The development of these projects does not create any specific equality impacts.

10. Financial and Resource Implications

- 10.1 There are financial implications on the Council for these externally funded projects. If the projects do not go ahead the grants could either be re-profiled into other project or new projects, with the ultimate sanction of returning the allocations back to MHCLG.

11. Major Risks & Mitigation

- 11.1 There are risks associated with wider projects including securing planning permissions for the enterprise units, the Kings Academy facility and the public realm improvements as well as risk associated with the build out / implementation of these schemes. As with all other Town Deal schemes, individual risk assessments / registers will be provided for each scheme.

12. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



13. **One Council**

Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

- The new Enterprise Units will provide an income stream for the Council.

One Digital Council

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

One Sustainable Council

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.

- The works undertaken will seek to be carbon neutral.

14. **Key Decision Information**

14.1 This is a key decision due to the value of funding being granted to the Council and its multi-ward impact.

15. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

- a. Cabinet Report June 2025 – Town Deal Update
- b. Cabinet Report March 2021 – Town Deal Update
- c. Cabinet Report March 2016 – Chatterley Valley
- d. Cabinet Report January 2022 – Chatterley Valley
- e. Cabinet Reports related to Kidsgrove Sports Centre
 - Cabinet 12 October 2022
 - Cabinet 9 June 2021
 - Cabinet 17 March 2021
 - Cabinet 9 September 2020
 - Cabinet 22 April 2020
 - Cabinet 18 March 2020
 - Cabinet 15 January 2020
 - Cabinet 6 November 2019
 - Cabinet 16 October 2019

16. List of Appendices

16.1 None

17. Background Papers

17.1 None

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET



2nd September 2025

Report Title: Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan (2020-2040) Update

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolios: Strategic Planning

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
To update Cabinet on the progress being made with the Borough Local Plan and to approve next steps required prior to Full Council considering the adoption of the Local Plan.			
<u>Recommendation</u> That Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the progress made with the Borough Local Plan to date. Notes the updates on the issues raised in response to the Inspectors Post Examination Hearing Feedback. Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning to progress the next steps necessary on the Local Plan ahead of the Plan being considered for adoption at a future Full Council. Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, to approve a list of Main and Additional Modifications to the Local Plan and Policies Map, that arise from the Local Plan Examination process, alongside the necessary Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment for public consultation for a period of six weeks. Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, to forward responses from the Main Modifications consultation directly to the Inspector to allow the preparation of a final report on the Local Plan and undertake the necessary steps to take a report to Full Council to consider the adoption of the Local Plan. 			
<u>Reasons</u> To keep Cabinet informed of progress made to date with the Borough Local Plan, the outcomes of the recent Examination Hearing Sessions and the necessary next steps required to reach adoption of the Plan.			

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Plan establishes a vision and policy framework for how the Borough will grow up to 2040. It sets out targets for the number of jobs and homes to be delivered in the Borough and provides for an overarching spatial strategy to guide development

to sustainable locations. At its adoption, the Plan will form part of the statutory Development Plan for the Borough.



- 1.2 Council formally agreed in July 2024 that the Final Draft Borough Local Plan 2040 be consulted upon between August and October 2024. Following this consultation, the Council submitted the Final Draft Borough Local Plan, comments received (at Regulation 19 Stage) and the related evidence base to the Secretary of State in December 2024 for public examination and that examination is ongoing.
- 1.3 Inspector Anne Jordan (BA Hons) MRTPI has been appointed to examine the Local Plan. On her appointment and following review of the Local Plan and evidence, in February 2025, the Inspector asked several initial questions. These questions were to seek clarification and/or to help direct the Inspector to where she would be able to find relevant information to aid her understanding of a topic/s. The Council responded to all questions at the end of March 2025.
- 1.4 On 4th April, the Inspector formally notified all parties of her intention to proceed with hearing sessions into the submitted Local Plan. The Inspector also published guidance on how the examination hearing sessions were to operate and a list of issues, matters and questions which would form the basis for the discussion and debate. The Inspector set a deadline for the 1st May for the Council to respond to all the questions posed (121 in total) and for Reg 19 respondents, those questions that related to their original representations. The Council duly prepared and submitted by the stated deadline, several statements relating to the matters and individual questions. Reg 19 respondents also submitted their own statements.
- 1.5 Local Plan examination hearing sessions were held between the 20 May 2025 and the 26 June 2025, at Castle House, chaired by the Planning Inspector. The examination hearing sessions included structured discussions held around the key topics of the Plan. The first week of hearing sessions focused on the compliance of the Plan with legal and soundness matters, the spatial strategy, Green Belt and housing requirements. The following weeks considered detailed policy matters and a consideration of site allocations in the Local Plan and the corresponding impacts on housing supply and other matters.
- 1.6 During the examination hearing sessions, the Council undertook to prepare responses to several action points raised at the sessions. The Council has now responded to the action points raised during the initial hearing stage of the Local Plan and these action points are all published on the Local Plan examination library which hosts all the documentation and provides regular updates on the Local Plan examination.

2. Update

- 2.1 In August 2025, the Inspector set out her initial thoughts and findings following the conclusion of the initial Local Plan examination hearing sessions and thanked the Council for the constructive and helpful approach during the examination hearing sessions and in the post hearing engagement, responding to action points and supplementary questions. The Inspector has indicated that the Local Plan, subject to modifications, can be taken forward to adoption in a reasonable timescale subject to further work being required on a number of topic areas which are outlined, in summary, below:-
- 2.2 **Duty-to-Co-operate** – the Inspector is satisfied that the Council has complied with the Duty-to-Co-operate. This is a positive finding as the duty is a legal (stop / go) test that can lead to Local Plan examinations being stopped by an Inspector. It demonstrates that the Council, neighbouring local planning authorities and other

public bodies have engaged constructively and on an ongoing basis in relation to the Local Plan.



- 2.3 **Accessibility and the Transport Implications of the Plan** – the Inspector has agreed with the Council that a link road between the A525 Keele Road to the A53 Whitmore Road is justified and necessary. Following receipt of the post hearing feedback, the Council, Staffordshire County Council and the respective site promoters have agreed to a safeguarded transport route that will be referenced in the Local Plan and shown on the Local Plan Policies Map. This position has been shared with the Inspector.
- 2.4 **Town Centre Sites** - the Council has submitted information to the Inspector, following the examination hearings in relation to town centre developments and the provision of surface level car parks in the town centre. The Council awaits further instructions in the coming weeks from the Inspector, pending the outcomes of her ongoing review of that information that has sought to provide assurance that the town centre will be adequately served by sufficient car parking provision in the future.
- 2.5 **Minerals Safeguarding** – the Council is working with Staffordshire County Council to provide further assurance to the Inspector on the impact of mineral resources on several allocations proposed in the Local Plan. A response has been prepared following engagement with the County Council and is to be provided to the Inspector in the w/c 18th August 2025.
- 2.6 **Site Selection Flood Risk** – the Council completed a level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report and submitted this during the examination of the Local Plan. The Inspector has asked for more information about flood risk for several allocations in the Local Plan.
- 2.7 **Exceptional Circumstances** - the Inspector has accepted that exceptional circumstances for Green Belt changes are justified and necessary for employment and housing allocations in the Local Plan.
- 2.8 **Keele University** – the Inspector has asked for more information about the timetable for delivery for the University sites proposed as allocations in the Plan and whether changes are necessary to the Policy wording for the allocation.
- 2.9 **BW1 Chatterley Valley** – this is an employment site. The Inspector has raised the issue of Minerals Safeguarding which is described above.
- 2.10 **Land at Junction 16 (AB2)** - The Inspector has asked for more information relating to the size of the site and whether alternative options were considered in this location, potentially for less employment space and involving a release of less Green Belt land. Minerals safeguarding is also highlighted. This will be addressed by the Council in consultation with the site promotor.
- 2.11 **Housing Site Allocations** - the Council notes that the Inspector is satisfied that the housing requirement is justified, and exceptional circumstances exist for Green Belt release to meet the borough's housing requirement. There are several comments on site allocations where further work is required or the Inspector has asked for more information (including an updated housing trajectory) to reflect the changes outlined below:-
- a) **AB12 Diglake Street and AB33 Land off Nantwich Road** (Audley sites) – The Inspector recommends removal of these sites from the Local Plan alongside sites **CH13 (land at Castletown Grange)** and **KS3 (Land at Blackbank Road)**.

- b) **CT1 Land at Red Street, Chesterton** – The Inspector has asked for more information on Green Belt impacts, the need for traffic calming, the makeup of a local retail centre on the site and issues of historic mining and contamination. The Council will address these points in a response to the Inspector following engagement with the site promotor.
 - c) **SP11 Lyme Park Silverdale** – The Inspector has asked for further consideration to be given to the site masterplan for SP11. The Council's view is that the County Park element of SP11 Lyme Park, Silverdale is retained in the Green Belt and will be preparing a response to the Inspector on that basis.
 - d) **BL18 Land at Clough Hall** – The Inspector has asked the Council to provide an assessment of impacts on a Site of Biological Importance.
 - e) **TB19 – Land South of Newcastle Golf Club** – Alongside the issue of the link road (set out above), further consideration is required of the Green Belt boundary for the site which currently includes areas of landscaped open space. This will be addressed by the Council in consultation with the site promotor.
 - f) **Removal of site G&T8 Land West of Silverdale Business Park** – The Inspector has requested removal of the Gypsy and Traveller site proposed at Silverdale. The Council notes this request and has not been asked to provide an alternative site at this time.
- 2.12 **Compensatory Improvements** – are ways, set out in the Local Plan to provide compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of the remaining Green Belt land to offset the loss of Green Belt. The Inspector has asked for further information that compensatory improvements for Green Belt sites are deliverable through the Local Plan.
- 2.13 **Neighbourhood Planning Requirements** – The Council submitted further information, following the examination hearing sessions, on how neighbourhood plan housing requirements could be defined. The Council awaits further instructions in the coming weeks from the Inspector, pending the outcomes of her ongoing review of that information.
- 2.14 **Other policy wording** – The Council notes the Inspector's intention to make comments in due course on suggested changes to policies, such as Policy SA1 General Development Principles & SE9 Historic Environment, as well as those presented in the Schedule of Modifications.
- 2.15 The Council has responded to the Inspector and stated that it intends to provide the newly requested information on the matters raised above by the 30 September 2025 at the latest.

Main Modifications

- 2.16 Subject to the Council's response to the matters outlined above and the Inspector's consideration of them, the next formal stage of the examination would be the Main Modifications consultation stage. Throughout the examination process, the Council has prepared and maintained a table of proposed modifications to the Local Plan. Modifications are proposed during the examination process to the Local Plan to secure its 'soundness' against the tests set out in national planning policy and are agreed with the Inspector before being consulted upon. The production of main modifications to a Local Plan are a common feature of the examination process.
- 2.17 Proposed modifications to Local Plans fall into two categories. The first are "Main Modifications" which are amendments that have an impact on strategy and / or how planning policies, and site allocations will be applied through decision-taking. The second category are called "Additional Modifications". These are sometimes referred

to as minor modifications, as they are normally corrections to be made to the Plan including to spelling, grammar, formatting, or factual data etc.



- 2.18 Main Modifications are proposed without prejudice to the Inspector's report on the Local Plan which will take account of all representations submitted in response to the consultation on Main Modifications. At this stage, the Inspector will only consider representations on 'soundness' made upon the Main Modifications, its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment, and nothing else. The consultation on the Main Modifications is not an opportunity to raise matters relating to other parts of the Local Plan (as submitted) that have already been considered by the Inspector during the examination or to identify new modifications.
- 2.19 All representations made to the Main Modifications will be provided to the Inspector, who will either ask the Council to consider preparing further modifications or recommend that the Council proceed with the modifications (as proposed), which would allow for the adoption of the Plan. The modifications are fundamental to the overall soundness of the Local Plan there is no opportunity to adjust them further.
- 2.20 Consultation on the modifications (when published), will run for six weeks. Those who have participated in the examination will be notified and will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed modifications. The process is open to others, with an interest in the Local Plan, to respond, albeit that any comments will be entirely limited to the modifications. Upon the conclusion of the consultation, all comments received will be passed to the Inspector for her consideration.
- 2.21 The Council will manage the consultation process in accordance with its adopted Statement of Community Involvement. The Statement of Community Involvement includes a requirement to publish details on the Council's website and in relevant areas, including Libraries across the Borough. However, as a technical stage of the examination, the consultation is unlikely to include workshops or consultation events in the Borough as the consultation stage is a technical one, focused on the outcomes of the examination process.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Cabinet:

- Notes the progress made with the Borough Local Plan to date.
- Notes the updates on the issues raised in response to the Inspectors Post Examination Hearing Feedback.
- Authorises that the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning to progress the next steps necessary on the Local Plan ahead of being considered for adoption at a future Full Council meeting.
- Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning to approve a list of Main and Additional Modifications to the Local Plan and Policies Map, that arise from the Local Plan Examination process, alongside the necessary Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment for public consultation for a period of not less than six weeks.
- Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning to forward responses from the consultation on Main Modifications directly to the Inspector to allow the preparation of a final report on the Local Plan, prior to consideration for adoption at Full Council.

4. Reasons

- 4.1** To ensure that the process of adopting a Local Plan is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

5. Options Considered

- 5.1** The Local Plan is under examination currently. The Council has expressed its clear intention through the approval of a Local Development Scheme (Local Plan Timetable) to adopt a new Local Plan providing a comprehensive set of up-to date planning policies for the Borough.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1** In accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ('the 2004 Act'), the Council has a statutory duty to prepare planning policies and maintain an up-to-date development plan.
- 6.2** Secondary legislation relating to the preparation and examination of development plan documents is set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 6.3** When local authorities prepare local plans the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) must be considered. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It is highlighted that a revised version of the NPPF was published during December 2024. Transitional arrangements contained within the 2024 version of the NPPF allowed for the Local Plan to be submitted and considered under the December 2023 version of the NPPF. Consequently, all (paragraph) references to national planning policy made throughout the examination process are to the NPPF (December 2023). In line with the transitional requirements of the NPPF (2024 version) the Council will be expected to start work on a new Plan, under the revised plan-making system provided for under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 once the Local Plan (2020 – 2040) is adopted.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

- 9.1** The Local Plan is supported by an Equality Impact Assessment as part of its Sustainability Appraisal. This will consider how development proposed and planning policies impact on different groups in the community.

10. Financial and Resource Implications

- 10.1** The preparation of the Local Plan is resourced through the Planning Policy budget and full use of the Local Plan reserve.

11. Major Risks & Mitigation

- 11.1** Changes in National Policy, Legislation and Guidance - The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act now has Royal Assent. The Act will have implications for the formulation of future Local Plans. The Government has stated that Councils have until 31 December 2026 for 'old style' Plans to be adopted.

12. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



13. One Council

Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

- Site allocations in the Local Plan will support sustainable development in the Local Plan up to 2040, including sites in the Council's ownership.

One Digital Council

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

- Consultation on the Local Plan will include appropriate references to online and digital platforms to engage with the consultation

One Sustainable Council

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.

- The Local Plan includes policies to support the Council's urban tree planting schemes and policies in relation to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

14. Key Decision Information

14.1 This report and the recommendations contained within it relate to the preparation of a new Borough Local Plan. This report is a key decision as it affects all wards in the Borough.

15. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- a. Council Report July 2024
- b. Cabinet Report January 2024
- c. Cabinet Report October 2023
- d. Cabinet Report June 2023

16. List of Appendices

16.1 None

17. Background Papers

17.1 None

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO

Cabinet
02 September 2025

Report Title: **Renewal of Civica Financials Contract**

Submitted by: **Service Director for Finance (Section 151 Officer)**

Portfolios: **Finance, Town Centres and Growth**

Ward(s) affected: **All**

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
To award a contract to Civica UK Limited, through the Crown Commercial Services RM6259 Vertical Applications Solutions (VAS) Framework (Lot 1 – Business Applications) (in the sum of £258,685) to provide the Council's Financial Management System.			
<u>Recommendation</u> That Cabinet: 1. Approve the contract award to Civica UK Limited for the provision of the Council's Financial Management System on a 2+1+1+1 contract at a total cost of £258,685 (should the contract be utilised for the full 5 years).			
<u>Reasons</u> The Council relies on a suite of financial software applications in order to attend to its financial management needs. This includes systems by which it makes its day to day financial transactions and its financial accounting systems.			

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council relies on a suite of financial software applications in order to attend to its financial management needs. This includes systems by which it makes its day to day financial transactions and its financial accounting systems.
- 1.2 The systems that the Council currently use are provided by Civica UK Limited. The Council first procured these systems in 2013, to replace its Agresso system which had come to the end of its contract and was out of date.
- 1.3 The 2013 purchase was made under a framework agreement which stipulated a maximum contract length of five years. At the end of this period in 2018, the Council

entered into a new contract with Civica through the Crown Commercial Services (CCS) framework agreement.

- 1.4 The 2018 contract was taken for a period of two years only, to reflect the fact that the CCS framework had itself expired and had been extended whilst CCS undertook the process of procuring a new framework of suppliers.
- 1.5 The Civica Financial System has since been renewed twice and the current contract (which will be under a VAS Framework) will end in November 2025, and therefore the Council now needs to secure a new contract.
- 1.6 The Finance Team together with the Service Director for Information and Technology and the Procurement Manager have been discussing the options of the Financial Management System provision and it was felt that due to the Local Government Reorganisation, it would be most prudent to maintain the Civica Financial Management System.

2. Issues

- 2.1 In light of strategic planning and market opportunities, the Council is exploring the option to renew the contract just before the initial period renewal date and not enter into the optional extension. This early renewal presents a range of significant benefits:
 - **Access Lower Pricing Sooner:** By renewing now, the Council can secure improved commercial terms and realise cost savings earlier than waiting for the current term to expire.
 - **Streamline Software Usage:** The renewed contract will exclude the iCasework module, ensuring the solution aligns better with the Council's evolving operational requirements.
 - **Enhance System Capability:** Renewal provides the opportunity to negotiate the inclusion of additional modules, improving functionality and delivering greater value across departments.
 - **Secure Favourable Day Rates:** New terms will include competitive day rates, supporting cost- effective service delivery and project work.
 - **Support Through Local Government Reorganisation (LGR):** The renewed agreement can be tailored with a more appropriate contract term to support the Council through the upcoming LGR programme. Importantly, break clauses and extension options will be built in, giving the Council the flexibility it needs to adapt during a period of ongoing uncertainty.
- 2.2 Renewing the contract early enables the Council to align technology and commercial arrangements with its strategic goals, while maintaining agility in a time of change.
- 2.3 The contract renewal will include an annual health check of the core business processes, and the inclusion of a 'Making Tax Digital' module which is a UK

Government initiative led by HM Revenue and Customs. In addition the renewal also includes Civica's Intelligent Invoice Processing module.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 Approve the contract award to Civica UK Limited for the provision of the Council's Financial Management System on a 2+1+1+1 contract at a total cost of £258,685 (should the contract be utilised for the full 5 years).

4. **Reason for Preferred Solution**

- 4.1 Renewing the Civica Financial Management System Contract provides the benefits outlined in paragraph 2.1 and also enables Officers to focus on the Local Government Reorganisation as opposed to implementing a new financial management system.

5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 The options considered included renewing the Civica Financials Contract or completing a formal tender process in order to obtain a new Financial Management Systems supplier.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 The proposed direct award can be made through the Crown Commercial Services RM6259 Vertical Applications Solutions (VAS) Framework (Lot 1 – Business Applications).
- 6.2 On account of the proposed contract sum (£258,685) this is a Key Decision which required Cabinet approval.
- 6.3 The Council is required to have an appropriate Financial Management System in order to record and monitor the collection and spending of public money.
- 6.4 The contract would be completed on standard framework terms.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 There are no direct implications, but cloud-based systems do offer employers much greater flexibilities that can assist with enabling employees with certain protected characteristics to more easily discharge the requirements of their role. This assists with the Council's public sector equality duty and being an inclusive employer.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 The costs of the first year of the renewed contract with Civica amounts to £61,337 followed by a cost of £49,337 for each year after.
- 8.2 The total costs of the renewed contract compared to the existing contract over a four year period shows a saving of £52,565.

- 8.3 The revenue budget for the provision of the Financial Management System is already in place and approved, there will be no additional pressure as a result of renewing the contract with Civica.

9. **Major Risks**

- 9.1 The Council needs to operate and maintain an appropriate financial management system (General Ledger) which is up to date and fit for purpose. By renewing the contract with Civica, this ensures that the Council will have the appropriate system in place for the foreseeable future, whilst navigating the Local Government Reorganisation.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**

- 10.1 The utilisation of cloud-based solutions can have a positive impact on sustainability given the flexibilities that offers in terms of agile working.



11. **One Council**

- 11.1 Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council ☒

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

One Digital Council ☒

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

One Sustainable Council ☒

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle

- 11.2 The acquisition of an effective financial management system supports the One Council aims and objectives.

12. **Key Decision Information**

- 12.1 On account of the proposed contract sum (£258,685) this is a Key Decision which required Cabinet approval.

13. **Earlier Cabinet / Committee Resolutions**

- 13.1 None.

14. **List of Appendices**

14.1 Confidential Appendix – Civica Financials Re-Contract Proposal.

15. **Background Papers**

15.1 Civica Financials re-contract proposal.

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

02 September 2025

Report Title: Financial and Performance Review Report – First Quarter 2025/26

Submitted by: Corporate Leadership Team

Portfolios: One Council, People & Partnerships
Finance, Town Centres & Growth

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To provide Cabinet with the Financial and Performance Review Report for 2025-26 (Quarter One).			
<u>Recommendation</u> That (Cabinet): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Note the contents of the attached report and appendices and continue to monitor and challenge the Council's service and financial performance for this period. Approve the movement in reserves under section 7 of the Finance Appendix A (£100k to the Planning Appeals Reserve, £150k to the Local Plan Support Fund and £150k to the Budget and Borrowing Support Fund, all of which to be transferred from the Business Rates Reserve). 			
<u>Reasons</u> The Financial and Performance Management monitoring reports provide information on a quarterly basis regarding the performance of individual council services and progress with delivery against our priorities, alongside related financial information on the organisation.			

1. Background

- 1.1** This quarterly report provides Members with a detailed update on how the Council has performed during the quarter by presenting performance data and progress summaries set within a financial context. The report provides broad financial information (Appendix A) and also details service performance (Appendix B) for the period to the end of quarter one in 2025/26.
- 1.2** The Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget of £19.730m on 12 February 2025. Further financial information is provided in Appendix A.

2. Performance

- 2.1** The Q1 report (April 2025 to June 2025) has been produced using business intelligence tools in order to automate and improve the monitoring, analysis and reporting of Council performance. The indicators included are those agreed as part

of the new Council Plan and reflect the priorities for the Borough. In addition to reporting on key performance indicators, the report also includes progress summaries for each priority action, detailing the progress with the delivery of planned activities.

- 2.2** Contextual performance information is provided (indicators without a target), not only to ensure the monitoring of the corporate activities of the Council, but also to inform Members, businesses and residents of performance in their local area that the Council cannot directly control.
- 2.3** Any indicators failing to meet the set targets include a comment explaining the reasons behind the performance and what steps are being taken to ensure improvement in the future.
- 2.4** For this report a total of 49 indicators were monitored, 17 of these indicators were contextual and had no set target. Of these contextual measures that had historic trend data available, 62% showed an improvement or maintenance when compared to the previous year's performance. Of the remaining 32 indicators, the proportion which have met their target during this period stands at 78%, with the remaining 22% falling short of target. 43% of off target measures this quarter show a positive trend when comparing to the same time period of the previous financial year with 29% of the off-target measures not having any historical data to compare against. It must also be noted that a small number of these 'off target' measures have more stretching targets this year, in line with benchmarking findings and council ambition. In terms of trend data overall, with measures where there is comparable data, the proportion of indicators showing an improvement or maintenance of the previous year's performance stands at 68%.
- 2.5** Four project/actions have been classified as completed by their respective owners this quarter

3. Issues

- 3.1** There are seven indicators 'off target' this quarter and officers do not feel that these give rise to serious cause for concern at present (see commentaries in Appendix B). The management of each of the service areas concerned continue to monitor and take steps to address performance improvement where feasible and appropriate.
- 3.2** Progress on delivery of planned activities is summarised for each priority with two activities/actions being amber rated in Quarter One; both are associated with priority two.
- 3.3** The first action flagged as amber is the Walleys Quarry odour issue. Comments by the action owner are listed below;

"Following Walleys Quarry Ltd entering into liquidation at the end of February 2025 and the subsequent disclaimer of the environmental permits, the Environment Agency are using their discretionary power to arrange for steps to be taken to remove the risk of serious pollution.

- The contractor appointed to undertake the work has now completed:
 - works to manage the accumulation of liquid in the western void
 - the installation of a new drain in the western void to manage any landfill gas and leachate
 - a new access track to the western flank of the landfill site to allow access to this part of the site for equipment and materials
- The contractor continues to progress with the following works:
 - installation of an engineered clay bund to the waste flank in the western void
 - engineering works to remedy shallow surface depressions and capping defects on the top of the site

- Materials (e.g. clay) continue to be brought onto site to undertake the works. The site however remains closed to any incoming waste.
- In Quarter 1, the data shows:
 - Odour complaints reported to NULBC have reduced further and stabilised at a lower level of 24 (April), 15 (May) and 16 (June)
 - there has been no weekly exceedance of the World Health Organisation [WHO] odour annoyance guideline throughout this period”

3.4 The second action flagged as amber and not progressing as expected is the Delivery the £16m Kildsgrove Town Deal, where issues regarding the delivery of the railway station project have slowed progress. The Town Deal Board met in May to review the railway station and the shared service hub projects. The railway station project is undergoing a scope reduction / redesign exercise to bring the scheme in within the available budget and avoiding land on the site which will need remediation for coal mines, whilst the shared service hub budget / project has been re-allocated into four separate projects to deliver enterprise units, a community learning hub and public realm / highways improvements.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Cabinet note the contents of the attached report and Appendices A and B and continue to monitor and challenge the Council's performance alongside its financial performance for the same period.

5. Reasons

5.1 To enable financial and performance information to be presented for continued scrutiny and encourage improvement within council delivery.

6. Options Considered

6.1 At this time, it is felt there is no other option necessary for consideration, however the presentation of information is continually reviewed.

7. Legal and Statutory Implications

7.1 The Council has a Best Value duty to provide value for money services.

8. Equality Impact Assessment

8.1 There are no differential equality issues arising directly from this report

9. Financial and Resource Implications

9.1 Any positive variance for the full year on the General Fund Revenue Account will enable that amount to be transferred to the Budget Support Fund and will be available in future years for use, as the Council considers appropriate. Conversely, if there is an adverse variance, the amount required to cover this will have to be met from the Budget Support Fund.

10. Major Risks & Mitigation

10.1 The ongoing changing market conditions represents the greatest risk to the revenue budget, particularly with regard to the impact it may have upon income receivable in relation to services where customers may choose whether or not to use Council

facilities or in the case of the waste/recycling service where the volume of recycled materials is liable to fluctuate.

- 10.2** The capital programme will require regular monitoring to identify any projects which are falling behind their planned completion dates. This will be carried out by the Capital Programme Review Group, which meets on a bi-monthly basis together with quarterly reports to Cabinet.

11. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



12. One Council

Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council ☒

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

One Digital Council ☒

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

One Green Council ☒

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.

13. Key Decision Information

13.1 This is not a key decision.

14. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

14.1 Not relevant

15. List of Appendices

15.1 Financial information (Appendix A) and Performance Outturn (Appendix B)

16. **Background Papers**

16.1 Working papers held by officers responsible for calculating indicators.

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2025/26

**Quarter One
Financial
Performance**

1. Background and Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and recommended good practice, a quarterly financial report is presented to Members. This is the first report for 2025/26.
- 1.2 The report summarises overall financial performance for 2025/26 with particular emphasis on the key sources of financial risk to the Council. Specific considerations are as follows:
- **General Fund Revenue Account (Section 2)** – considers budgetary performance on the General Fund Account by looking at variations in income and expenditure and the funding received by the Council.
 - **Efficiency and Savings Plan (Section 3)** – considers progress in achieving the efficiency and savings forecast for 2024/25.
 - **Capital Programme (Section 4)** – provides an update to Members on progress against the Council's Capital Programme and major project funded through the Town Deal Funds and Future High Street Fund.
 - **Treasury Management (Section 5)** – sets out the key statistics in terms of investments and borrowings;
 - **Collection Fund (Section 6)** – considers progress to date in collecting the Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debts.

2. General Fund Revenue Budget

- 2.1 This section of the report considers the financial performance of the General Fund Revenue Account against budget by setting out variations in income and expenditure and funding received by the Council.

Area	2025/26 General Fund	
	Estimate £	Band D Council Tax £
Central Services	2,449,120	61.52
Cultural Services	3,513,630	88.27
Environmental Services	8,701,440	218.59
Planning	1,673,670	42.04
Transport	(238,330)	(5.99)
Housing	2,326,630	58.45
Net Cost of Services	18,426,160	462.88
Pensions Liabilities Account	400,000	10.05
Investment Properties	(101,270)	(2.54)
Interest and Investment Income	588,000	14.77
Net Operating Expenditure	19,312,890	485.16
Contribution to/(from) Revenue Reserves	2,683,000	67.40
Contribution to/(from) Capital Reserves	(2,266,000)	(56.92)
Amount to be met from Government Grant and Local Taxpayers	19,729,890	495.64

- 2.2 The Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget of £19.730m on 12 February 2025 for 2025/26. The actual and forecast position compared to this budget is continuously monitored by Budget Holders, the Corporate Leadership Team and Portfolio Holders in order to detect any significant variances of expenditure or income from the approved amounts contained in the budget.
- 2.3 The table above shows how this budget has been allocated.

- 2.4 At the close of quarter one a positive variance of £0.034m has been achieved. The projected outturn on the General Fund Revenue Account for the year is £19.730m. This represents a balanced outturn for the year.
- 2.5 The adverse variances that have occurred at the close of the first quarter of 2025/26 include:
- a. Income shortfalls at the close of quarter one from car parking (£0.050m), trade waste (£0.025m) and bereavement services (£0.048m). It is forecast that these will total £0.368m for the financial year.
 - b. Use of overtime, casual and agency staff within the Waste and Recycling Service along with increased contractor disposal payments has resulted in an overspend of £0.099m at the close of quarter one. It is forecast that this will amount to an overspend of £0.196m for the financial year.
- 2.6 These adverse variances have been offset in full by the following favourable variances:
- a. Income from planning applications at the close of quarter one amounts to £0.319m more than budgeted, it is anticipated that income for the remainder of the financial year will remain in line with that budgeted and that the variance for the financial year will stay at £0.319m.
 - b. Interest receivable on cash that the Council holds in terms of Town Deal funding totals £0.058m at the close of quarter one. It is forecast that interest receivable will amount to £0.078m for the financial year.
 - c. Interest payable on borrowing has not been incurred due to the cash that the Council holds in terms of Town Deal funding, this has saved £0.154m. It is anticipated that borrowing may commence during the second quarter, as such it is estimated that this saving may amount to £0.205m for the financial year.

3. Efficiency and Savings Plan

- 3.1 This section of the report considers the financial performance of the Council's Efficiency and Savings Plan in 2025/26.
- 3.2 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (approved in February 2025) identified pressures amounting to £5.275m for the period 2025/26 to 2029/30.
- 3.3 The Efficiency and Savings Plan to address these pressures aims to both reduce expenditure and increase income. The need to grow income continues to be a priority as the Council moves towards becoming self-financing. The plan has been developed with the underlying principles of protecting frontline service delivery. It is also intended that the plan is a tool to enable the Council to ensure that its service spending is determined by the established priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.
- 3.4 The 2025/26 budget was set in February 2025 with the assumption of £1.890m of savings in the year. These savings are detailed in the table below:

Category	Amount £'000	Comments
Income	235	Additional sources of income generation and an increased demand for services that the Council charges for
Staffing Related Efficiencies	156	No redundancies are anticipated to arise from these proposals
Good Housekeeping/More Efficient Processes	167	Various savings arising from more efficient use of budgets
Tax Base Increase	425	Increased in Council Tax and Business Rates tax base
Council Tax Increase	175	An assumed 1.99% per Band D equivalent increase in Council Tax
Government Reimbursement	732	Grant in respect of Extended Producer Responsibility
Total	1,890	

3.5 At the end of quarter one, all savings have been achieved or are on target to be achieved throughout the remainder of the financial year.

4. Capital Programme and Major Projects

4.1 This section of the report provides an update to Members on the Council's Capital Programme and major projects funded by the Town Deal Funds and Future High Street Fund.

4.2 The table below shows a high level (service) summary of the General Fund Capital Programme position at 30 June 2025.

Priority	Budget at Period 3 £'000	Actual at Period 3 £'000	Variance at Period 3 £'000
One Council Delivering for Local People	231	232	1
A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough	834	852	18
Healthy, Active and Safe Communities	3,249	3,250	1
Town Centres for All	2,167	2,171	4
Total	6,481	6,505	24

4.3 A Capital Programme totalling £23.731m was approved for 2025/26, excluding contingency. In addition £23.553m was brought forward from the 2024/25 Capital Programme, including projects planned under the Town Deals funds that will continue to be progressed during 2025/26 (£18.354m), resulting in a total Capital Programme of £48.233m for 2024/25 (including a top up of £0.949m to re-establish a £1.000m contingency).

4.4 The expected total capital receipts due to be received this year following the sale of assets amount to £6.225m. A summary of the expected income is shown in the table below.

Funding	Amount
Proceeds from Right to Buy sales	£0.500m
Asset sales	£5.725m
Total	£6.225m

Major Projects Funding

- 4.5 The Council was awarded Future High Streets Fund funding in June 2021 of £11.0m to progress projects to help future economic growth. The full £11.0m has been received, all of which has been spent at 31 March 2025.
- 4.6 £23.6m was awarded to the Council via the Town Deals Fund for Newcastle to enable a vision to improve communications, infrastructure, and connectivity in Newcastle-under-Lyme to become a reality. £19.8m has been received to date of which £12.6m has been spent as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
Digital Infrastructure	2,285	1547	738
Sustainable Public Transport	3,421	841	2,580
Electric Vehicle Charging	400	400	0
Pedestrian Cycle Permeability	950	359	591
Transform Key Gateway Sites	3,810	1,177	2,633
Astley Centre for Circus	1,810	640	1,170
Digital Society	3,510	2,992	518
Heart into Knutton Village	3,534	2,958	576
Cross Street, Chesterton	2,955	987	1,968
Project Management	925	733	192
Total	23,600	12,634	10,966

- 4.7 £16.9m has also been awarded via the Town Deals fund for Kidsgrove to enable real and lasting economic benefits to be realised in Kidsgrove and the surrounding area. To date £14.5m has been received of which £7.3m has been spent as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
Kidsgrove Sports Centre	2,328	2,328	0
Chatterley Valley West	3,496	3,496	0
Kidsgrove Station	3,638	246	3,392
Shared Services Hub	6,183	328	5,855
Canal Enhancement	420	64	356
Project Management	835	806	29
Total	16,900	7,268	9,632

- 4.8 The Council was awarded £4.8m (all of which has now been received and spent), over a 3 year period, of Phase 1 UK Shared Prosperity Funding as part of the governments mission to level up opportunity and prosperity and to overcome geographical inequalities. It also aims to level up people's pride in the places they love and seeing that reflected in empowered local leaders and communities, a stronger social fabric and better life chances.
- 4.9 A further £1.6m of Phase 2 UK Shared Prosperity Funding has been received in full by the Council for the financial year 2025/26. To date £0.4m has been spent as detailed below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/ Ordered (£000')	Remaining (£000')
Outreach Mental Health Worker	45	12	33
Cultural Offer	85	0	85
Philip Astley Project (PAP)	30	0	30
Navigation House – Homeless Hub	292	301	(9)
Volunteering for all in Newcastle	30	3	27
Discharge Officer	45	12	33
Health Initiative	50	7	43

Homecoming	15	0	15
Natural Environment Project	50	0	50
Street Medic	16	0	16
Brampton Business Development	6	0	6
Honeybox	28	0	28
Promotional Work	15	0	15
Work Innovation Festival	20	0	20
Business Community Connects	17	0	17
Business Enterprise Coaching	33	0	33
Beauhurst Database	10	10	0
Flourishing Keele (KU)	141	0	141
Moving Ahead (KU)	82	0	82
Advanced Digital innovation (SU)	123	0	123
SSLEP Growth Hub	15	0	15
Carbon output calculator	15	0	15
Newcastle Community Connector	32	0	32
Training Academy	87	0	87
Digital Initiative & AI	50	0	50
NSCG Technical Innovation	36	0	36
Project Management	54	14	40
Contingency	140	0	140
Total	1,582	359	1,063

- 4.10 Several projects within the Town Deals and Future High Streets Fund (e.g. Ryecroft Development, York Place and Chatterley Valley) require further funding from the Council in addition to the government grants, this will include the Council borrowing to fund these projects.
- 4.11 The Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) borrowing rate is subject to change daily and could have a significant impact on the financial viability if increases in interest rates are forthcoming or may result in considerably less costs in the instances of lower rates being obtained when borrowing is required. Additionally, the level of inflationary demands is also considered on a project-by-project basis.
- 4.12 Rigorous financial challenge and monitoring of each project's expenditure will be required in both the interim and during subsequent construction phases. Financial monitoring will continue to be reported as part of the scrutiny process and will also form part of the quarterly financial report to Cabinet.

5. Treasury Management

- 5.1 This section of the report sets out the key treasury management statistics in relation to the Council's investments and borrowings. This report comprises a high level treasury management summary. The Audit and Standards Committee receives detailed operational updates on treasury management.

Investments

- 5.2 Investments and cash held at the bank on the 30 June 2025 amounted to £4.082m. Interest earned amounted to £0.058m at the close of quarter one. The average level of funds available for investment between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2025 was £6.181m.
- 5.3 The Council has not budgeted to receive investment income in 2025/26. However, due to projects being delayed for a number of reasons, funding has remained in the Council's bank account and in turn generated interest.

Borrowing

- 5.4 External borrowing has not yet been required during 2025/26 to fund the capital programme, it is anticipated that this will be required.
- 5.5 Although not utilised in recent years, the Council has previously considered the option of long-term borrowing from the PWLB. After the utilisation of capital receipts and internal borrowing, the Council will look to borrow short term from other local authorities in the first instance and will then review any other sources of funding if required.
- 5.6 Advice from the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, Arlingclose, is to continue to utilise internal funding whilst it is available as opposed to external borrowing. This approach also reduces the need to place funding in long term deposits, whilst minimising any potential investment risks.

6. Collection Fund

- 6.1. This section of the report details progress in collecting the Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debt.
- 6.2 Local tax income is collected by billing authorities and paid into local 'collection funds' (the Council is a billing authority). Where there is a shortfall in tax receipts (compared to expected levels), this leads to a deficit on the collection fund. Billing and major precepting authorities are usually required to meet their share of any deficit during the following financial year.
- 6.3 The quarter one collection rate was as follows:
- Council Tax – 26.71% of Council Tax was collected by 30 June 2025, compared to a target at the close of quarter one of 24.38%.
 - Business Rates – 31.00% of Business Rates was collected by 30 June 2025, compared to a target at the close of quarter one of 24.38%.
- 6.4 The current forecast of Council Tax and Business Rates receipts and Section 31 grant is shown below:

Tax	(Surplus)/Deficit at 30.6.25	Council's Share
Council Tax	£0.635m	£0.069m (11%)
Business Rates (2025-26 only)	£0.314m	£0.126m (40%)
Business Rates (2024-25 balance)	£2.291m	£0.916m (40%)
Business Rates Section 31 Grant	(£0.001m)	(£0.000m) (40%)
Total	£3.240m	£1.111m

- 6.5 The deficit position on the Council Tax collection fund will improve during the remainder of the financial year to reflect the inclusion in the tax base of properties being built throughout the Borough.
- 6.6 The Business Rates deficit in relation to 2024/25 reflects a change between the estimated surplus declared in January 2025 and the actual position calculated at 31 March 2025, largely relating to significant changes in rateable value agreed by the Valuation Office during the interim period. An amount to compensate for this is held in the Business Rates Reserve.

7. Reserves

- 7.1 Cabinet approved the transfer of £0.200m from the Business Rates Reserve to the Budget Support and Borrowing Fund in order to fund the work needed to submit the Council's final Local Government Reorganisation Plan.

7.2 Further transfers are recommended from the Business Rate Reserve of:

- £0.100m to the Planning Appeals Reserve to provide for any appeals that may be adverse to the Council's finances.
- £0.150m to the Local Plan Support Fund to provide for costs associated with the final proceeding of the Local Plan and to future plans.
- £0.150m to the Budget and Borrowing Support Fund to increase the Council's financial resilience.



Quarter 1 - April 2025 to June 2025

All Performance Indicators Current Status



Corporate Aim (Priority)	Count
Priority 1: One Council delivering for Local People	16
Priority 2: A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough	7
Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities	23
Priority 4: Town Centres for All	3
	49

Smart Narrative

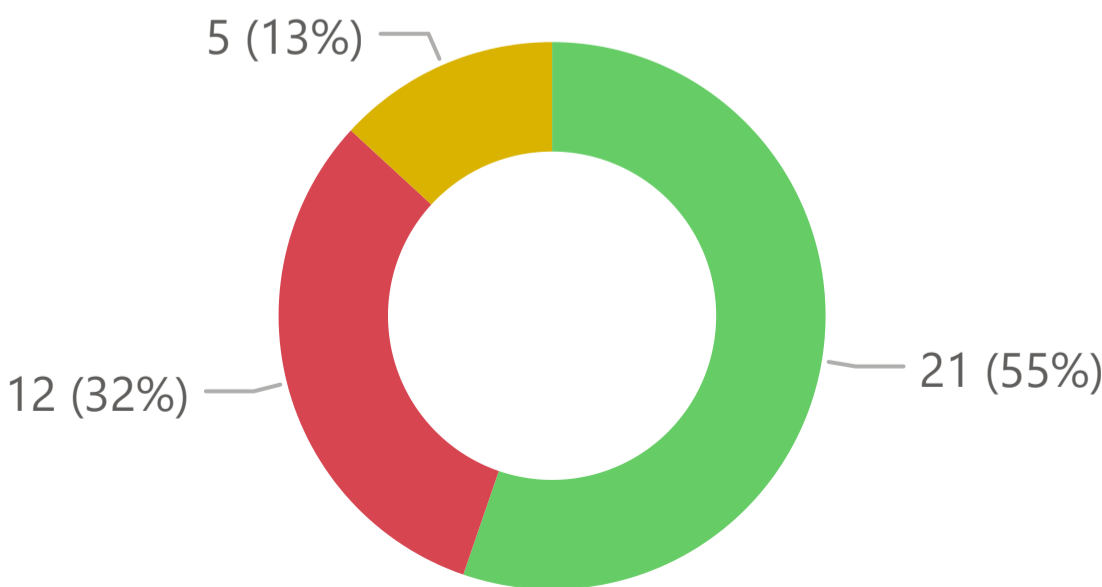
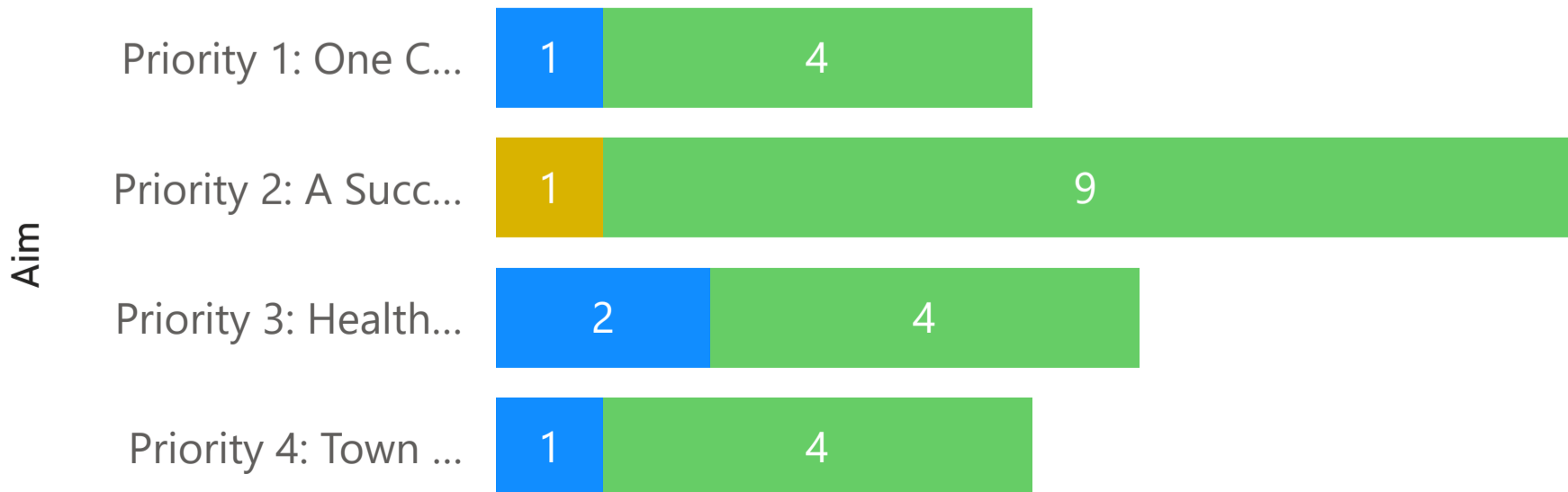
- A total of **32** measures were assigned targets this quarter. Of these, **78% achieved their targets**.
- **11** measures not only met their targets but also showed improvement compared to the same period last year. **5** met their targets but showed a negative year-on-year trend. **4** showed no change. **5** had no historical data available for comparison.
- The remaining **22%** did not meet their set targets this quarter.
- Of these, **3** measures showed year-on-year improvement. **2** demonstrated a negative trend compared to the same period last year. **2** lacked historical data for comparative analysis - these are shown in orange in the status visual.
- An additional **17 measures were contextual** and therefore did not have set targets.
- **7** showed improvement. **5** showed a decline. **1** remained unchanged. **4** lacked historical data for comparison.

4 projects/actions have been completed, across **Priority 1, 3 and 4**. **Priority 2** has **2 projects/actions** identified as **not progressing as expected**, with further details provided within this report.

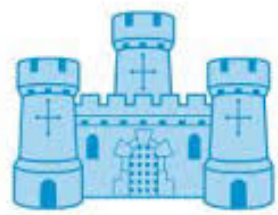
Summary Project Status Split

All Qtr.1 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year

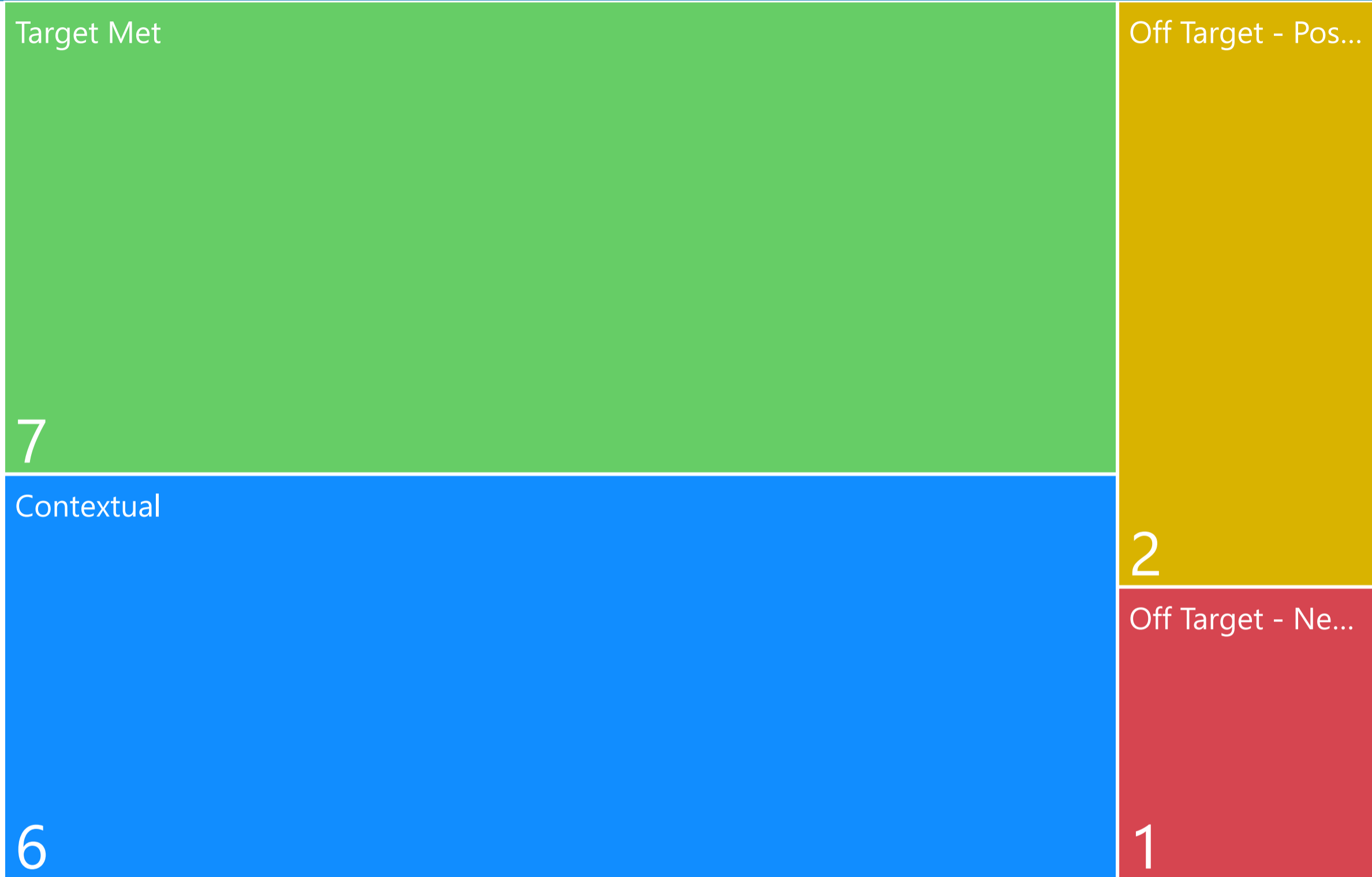
● Project/Action is Completed ● Project/Action is Not Progr... ● Project/Action is Progr...



● Improvement of Previous Year ● Deterioration of Previous Year ● No Change



Priority 1: Performance Indicators Current Status

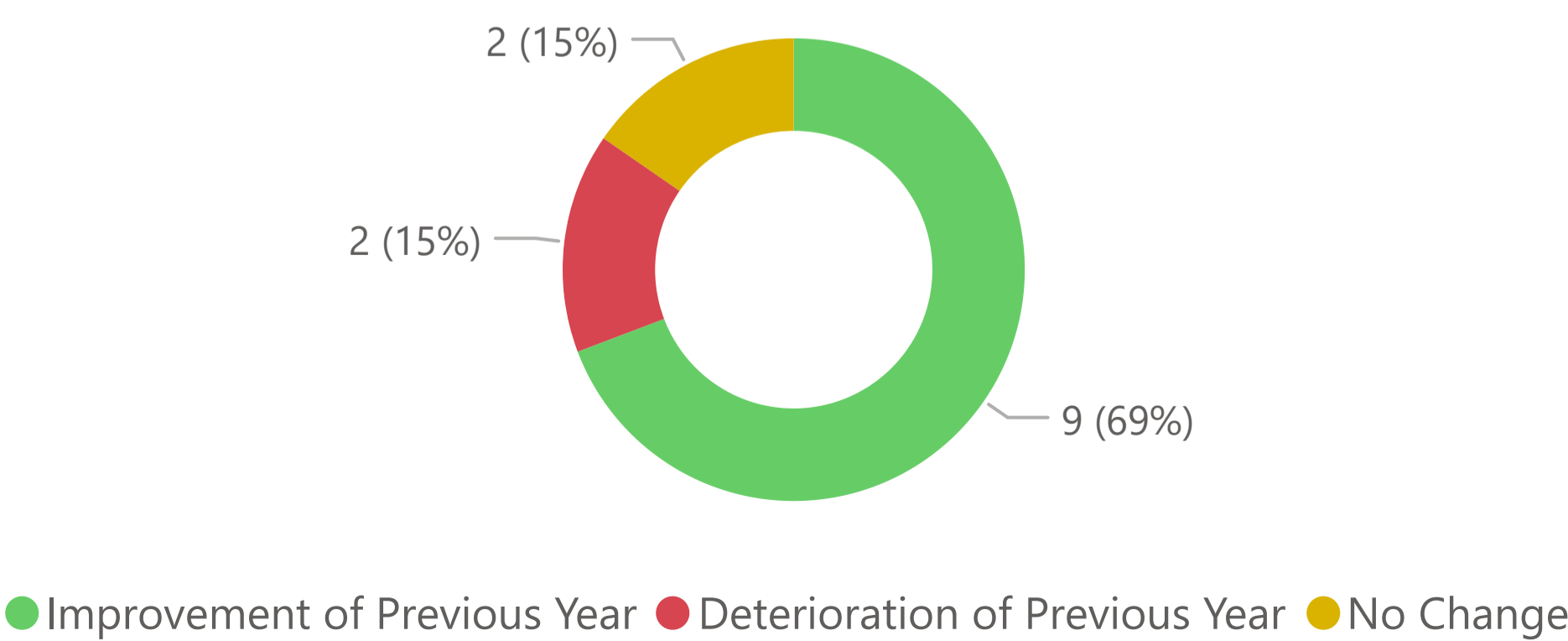
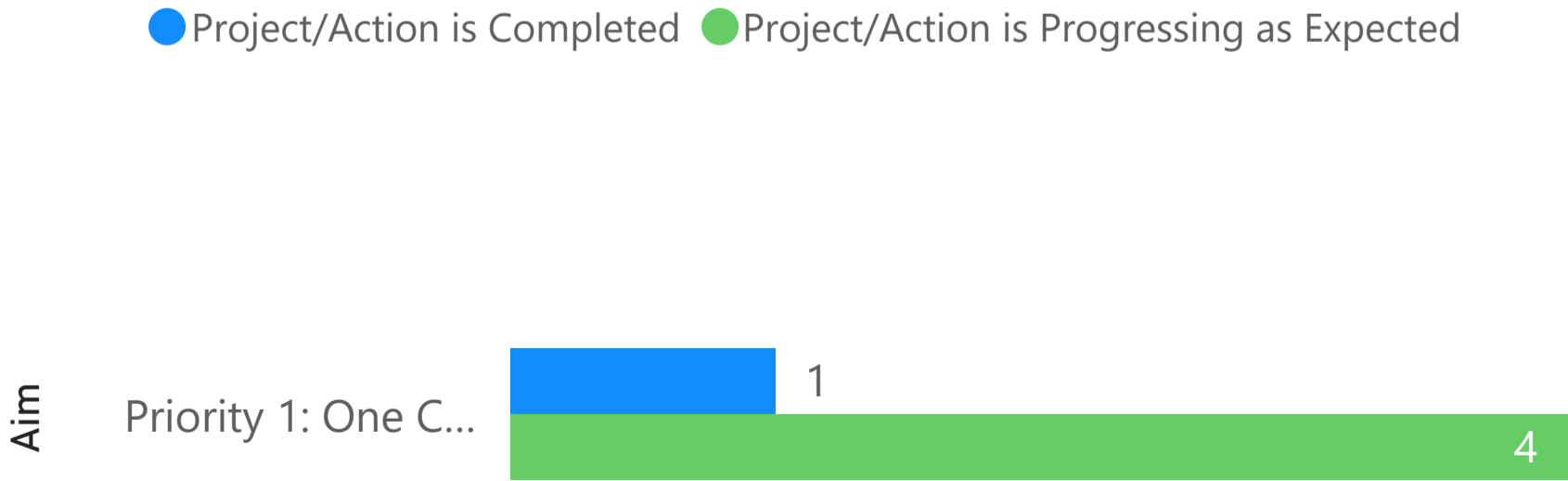


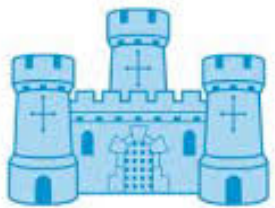
Corporate Objective	Count
Deliver services to a high standard every day	3
Develop professional talent across the Council and provide opportunities for staff to grow their careers	5
Ensure our services are efficient and accessible	6
Ensure strong financial discipline across the Council	2
Total	16

- Smart Narrative
- A total of **10** measures were assigned targets this quarter. Of these, **70% achieved their targets**.
 - **5** measures not only met their targets but also showed improvement compared to the same period last year. **1** met their targets but showed a negative year-on-year trend. **1** showed no change.
 - The remaining **30%** did not meet their set targets this quarter.
 - Of these, **2** measures showed year-on-year improvement. **1** demonstrated a negative trend compared to the same period last year.
 - An additional **6 measures were contextual** and therefore did not have set targets.
 - **2** showed improvement. **1** remained unchanged. **3** lacked historical data for comparison.
 - **1 projects/actions** has been completed, with all other project/actions progressing as expected this quarter, with further details provided within this report.

Priority 1: Summary Project Status Split

Priority 1: Qtr.1 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year

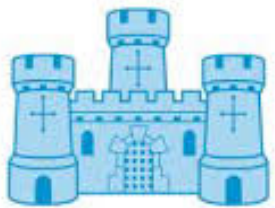




Low Is Good Per Quarter (Snapshot) Positive Yearly Trend	ID1.1 - Percentage of food premises that have a zero or one national food hygiene rating	Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
	<div><div>FY</div><div><div><div>2023/24</div><div>2024/25</div><div>2025/26</div><div>Target</div></div><div><div>0</div><div>1</div><div>2</div></div><div><div>Percent (%)</div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1</div><div>Quarter 2</div><div>Quarter 3</div><div>Quarter 4</div></div></div><div>Cllr. David Hutchison</div><div>0.41✓</div><div>Target: 2.00</div><div>Not Required as Target Met</div></div>		
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) No Change Yearly Trend	ID1.2 - Percentage of category A and B food business inspections completed on time	Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
	<div><div>FY</div><div><div><div>2023/24</div><div>2024/25</div><div>2025/26</div><div>Target</div></div><div><div>0</div><div>50</div><div>100</div></div><div><div>Percent (%)</div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div></div><div>Cllr. David Hutchison</div><div>100.00✓</div><div>Target: 97.00</div><div>Not Required as Target Met</div></div>		
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Positive Yearly Trend	ID1.16 - Percentage of Stage 1 complaints processed in time being 20 working days	Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
	<div><div>FY</div><div><div><div>2023/24</div><div>2024/25</div><div>2025/26</div><div>Target</div></div><div><div>0</div><div>50</div><div>100</div></div><div><div>Percent (%)</div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div></div><div>Cllr. Simon Tagg</div><div>96.43✓</div><div>Target: 85.00</div><div>Target Met - (APR) 7 responses were due and 7 were processed on time. (MAY) 9 responses were due and 8 were processed on time, 1 (Leisure) was processed 3 days over SLA date. (June) All responses were processed in time.</div></div>		
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Positive Yearly Trend	ID1.17 - Percentage of FOI's dealt with in time being 20 working days	Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
	<div><div>FY</div><div><div><div>2024/25</div><div>2025/26</div><div>Target</div></div><div><div>0</div><div>50</div><div>100</div></div><div><div>Percent (%)</div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div></div><div>Cllr. Simon Tagg</div><div>88.00✓</div><div>Target: 85.00</div><div>Target Met - Both May and June demonstrated strong performance in handling FOI requests within the required timeframe. With 98% completed on time in May and a 91% success rate in June, the measure has successfully met and gone beyond the quarterly target of 85%.</div></div>		

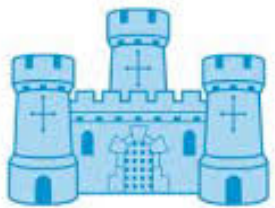
Deliver services to a high standard every day

Ensure our services are efficient and accessible

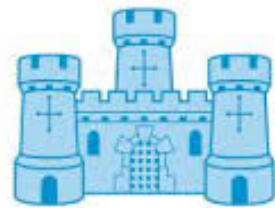


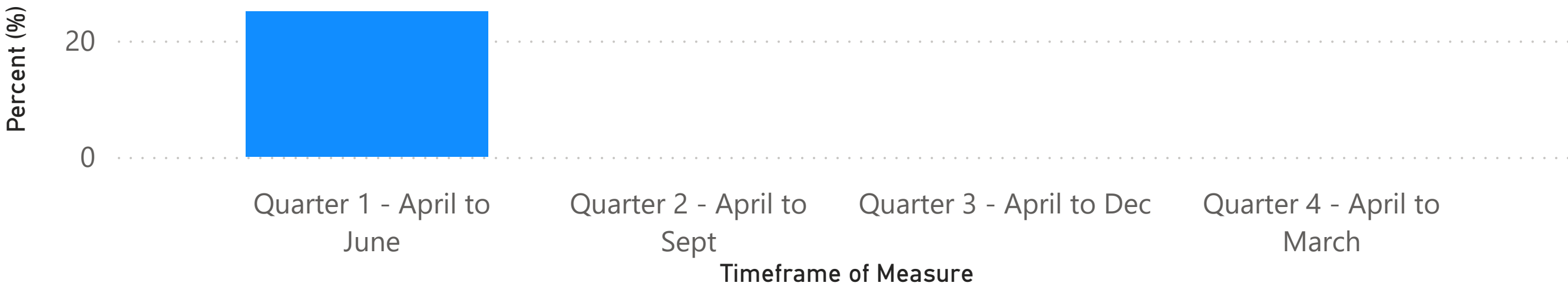
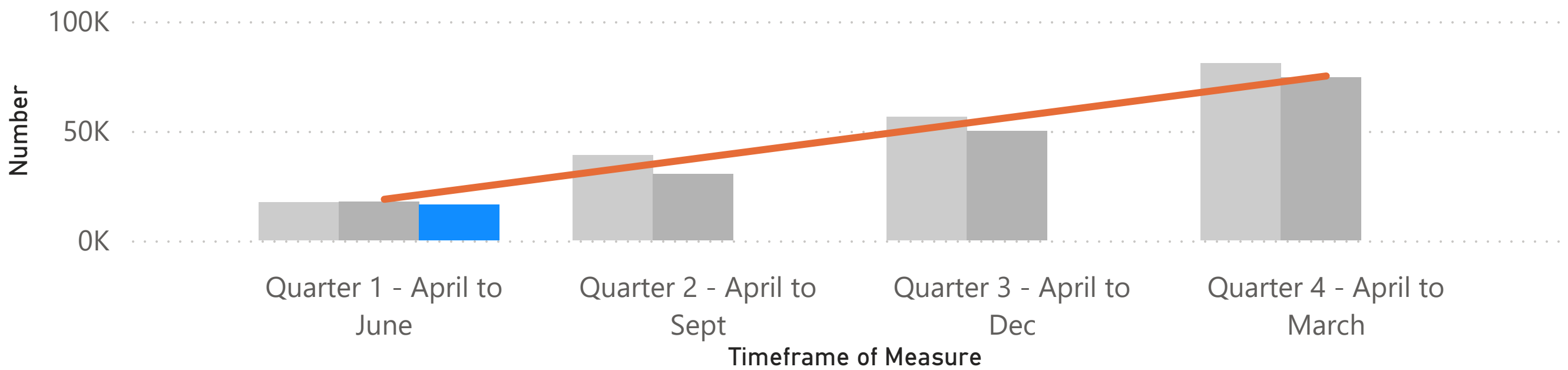
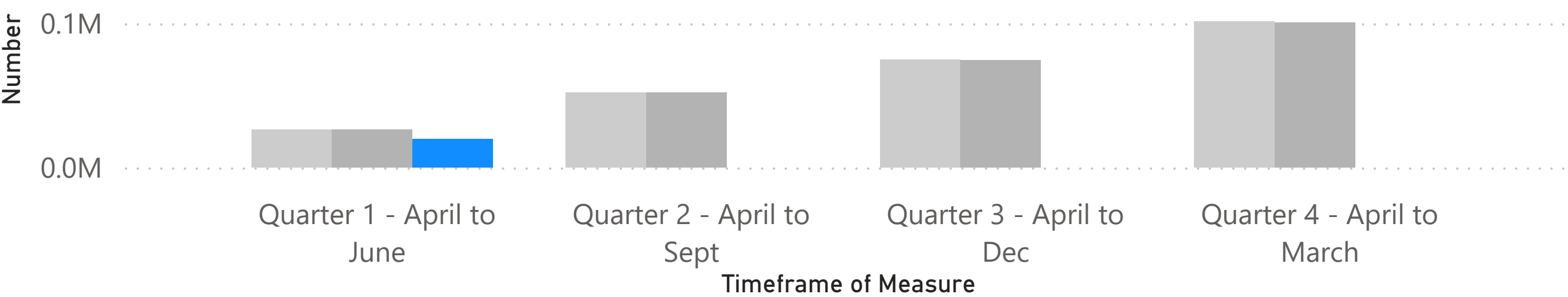
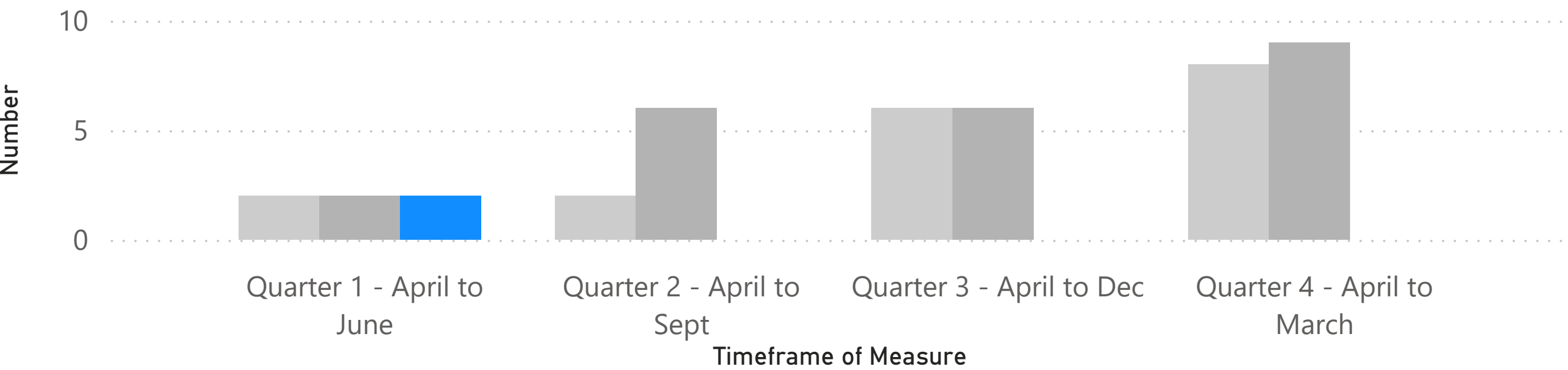
ID1.13 - Average number of days per employee lost to sickness - Per Employee		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
<div>Low</div> <div>Is Good</div> <div>Cumulative (Per Annum)</div> <div>Positive</div> <div>Yearly Trend</div>	<div><div>FY</div><div>● 2023/24 ● 2024/25 ● 2025/26 ● Target</div><div>Cllr. Simon Tagg</div><div><div>Days</div><div><div>10</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div>	2.87!	Whilst absence is consistently above target, June saw another significant reduction with the absence the lowest we have seen over the past four years. The majority of absence was short term with much lower numbers of long term absence than usual. hopefully the reduction in sickness absence shows the benefit of all the well-being initiatives we have been trying to provide for employees. The team continue to undertake proactive work on well-being, with a new private health cash plan and on-site Physio launched in May 2025.
		Target: 2.20	
ID1.14 - Staff Turnover		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
<div>Low</div> <div>Is Good</div> <div>Cumulative (Per Annum)</div> <div>Positive</div> <div>Yearly Trend</div>	<div><div>FY</div><div>● 2023/24 ● 2024/25 ● 2025/26 ● Target</div><div>Cllr. Simon Tagg</div><div><div>Percent (%)</div><div><div>20</div><div>10</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div>	2.62!	Turnover for June reduced significantly in comparison to both previous months and June in previous years. Please see below information on adjusted turnover to account for natural leavers
		Target: 2.50	
ID1.14b - Voluntary Staff Turnover		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
<div>Low</div> <div>Is Good</div> <div>Cumulative (Per Annum)</div> <div>N/A</div> <div>Yearly Trend</div>	<div><div>FY</div><div>● 2025/26</div><div>Cllr. Simon Tagg</div><div><div>Percent (%)</div><div><div>2</div><div>1</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div>	1.75	Voluntary turnover removes leavers who left due to end of FTC, dismissal or TUPE . This is a new measure designed to give context to the turnover figure by showing which of the leavers have left by choice (resigned/retired) so that a more rounded view of retention can be obtained.
ID1.15 - Staff Vacancy Rate		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
<div>Low</div> <div>Is Good</div> <div>Per Quarter (Snapshot)</div> <div>Positive</div> <div>Yearly Trend</div>	<div><div>FY</div><div>● 2023/24 ● 2024/25 ● 2025/26</div><div>Cllr. Simon Tagg</div><div><div>Percent (%)</div><div><div>10</div><div>5</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1</div><div>Quarter 2</div><div>Quarter 3</div><div>Quarter 4</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div>	8.57	Vacancy rates remain consistent, with regular reviews of vacant posts to ensure efficiency. Very few posts remain hard to fill

Develop professional talent across the Council and provide opportunities for staff to grow their careers



ID1.6 - Percentage of Customer Hub requests resolved at first point of contact		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) N/A Yearly Trend	<div><div>FY 2025/26</div><div>Cllr. Simon Tagg</div><div><div>Percent (%)</div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div>	97.00	Since the start of the financial year, all data has been captured exclusively via Anywhere 365. The software provides enhanced visibility into specific call queues and customer demand. Phase two of the telephony system is scheduled to roll out in the coming months, aiming to further improve performance by enabling more accurate routing—ensuring customers are connected to the right service the first time.
			Ensure our services are efficient and accessible
ID1.10 - Time taken to process Housing Benefit new claims/change events (Days)		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
Low Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Positive Yearly Trend	<div><div>FY 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 End of Year Target</div><div>Cllr. Simon Tagg</div><div><div>Days</div><div><div>Quarter 1</div><div>Quarter 2</div><div>Quarter 3</div><div>Quarter 4</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div>	4.19✓ Target: 6.00	Not Required as Target Met
			Deliver services to a high standard every day
ID1.11 - Percentage of Council Tax collected		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Negative Yearly Trend	<div><div>FY 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 Target</div><div>Cllr. Stephen Sweeney</div><div><div>Days</div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div>	26.71✓ Target: 24.38	Not Required as Target Met
			Ensure strong financial discipline across the Council
ID1.12 - Percentage of National non-domestic rates collected		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Positive Yearly Trend	<div><div>FY 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 Target</div><div>Cllr. Stephen Sweeney</div><div><div>Days</div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div>	31.00✓ Target: 24.38	Not Required as Target Met



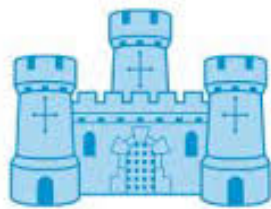
Low		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
Is Good	ID1.7 - % Unmet demand (number of calls not answered as a % of total call handling volume)		
	FY 2025/26 Cllr. Simon Tagg		
		25.00	Since the beginning of the financial year, all data has been collected exclusively via Anywhere 365. Quarter 1 has seen a positive shift, with unmet demand decreasing by 2% from the start to the end the quarter, indicating the team's growing effectiveness in responding to incoming calls.
	N/A Yearly Trend		
High		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
Is Good	ID1.8a - Total number of digital online transactions		
	FY 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 Target Cllr. Simon Tagg		
		16,352! Target: 18,750	Jadu form usage decreased by 1,550 while Citizen Access has increased by 415 compared with the same time last year. This shift is influenced by various factor; system and customer journey improvements, work to deflect customer to the correct organisation, and promotion of Citizen access.
	Negative Yearly Trend		
Low		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
Is Good	ID1.8b- Total number of calls offered into the Customer Hub		
	FY 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 Cllr. Simon Tagg		
		19,911	Call volumes have continued to reduce, with 6,392 fewer calls recorded by the end of Quarter 1 compared to the same period last financial year. This reduction may be attributed to a combination of factors, including enhanced system functionality, improved service delivery, and evolving customer demand patterns.
	Positive Yearly Trend		
Low		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
Is Good	ID1.3 - No. Accidents/Incidents reported (RIDDOR)		
	FY 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 Cllr. Stephen Sweeney		
		2	Two RIDDOR-reportable accidents/incidents were recorded this quarter, with both cases occurring within the Recycling and Waste service area. This performance is comparable to Quarter 1 last financial year.
	No Change Yearly Trend		

Ensure our services are efficient and accessible

Develop professional talent across the Council and provide opportunities for staff to grow their careers



Priority 1: One Council delivering for Local People

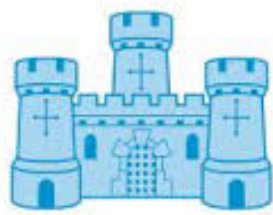


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BOROUGH COUNCIL

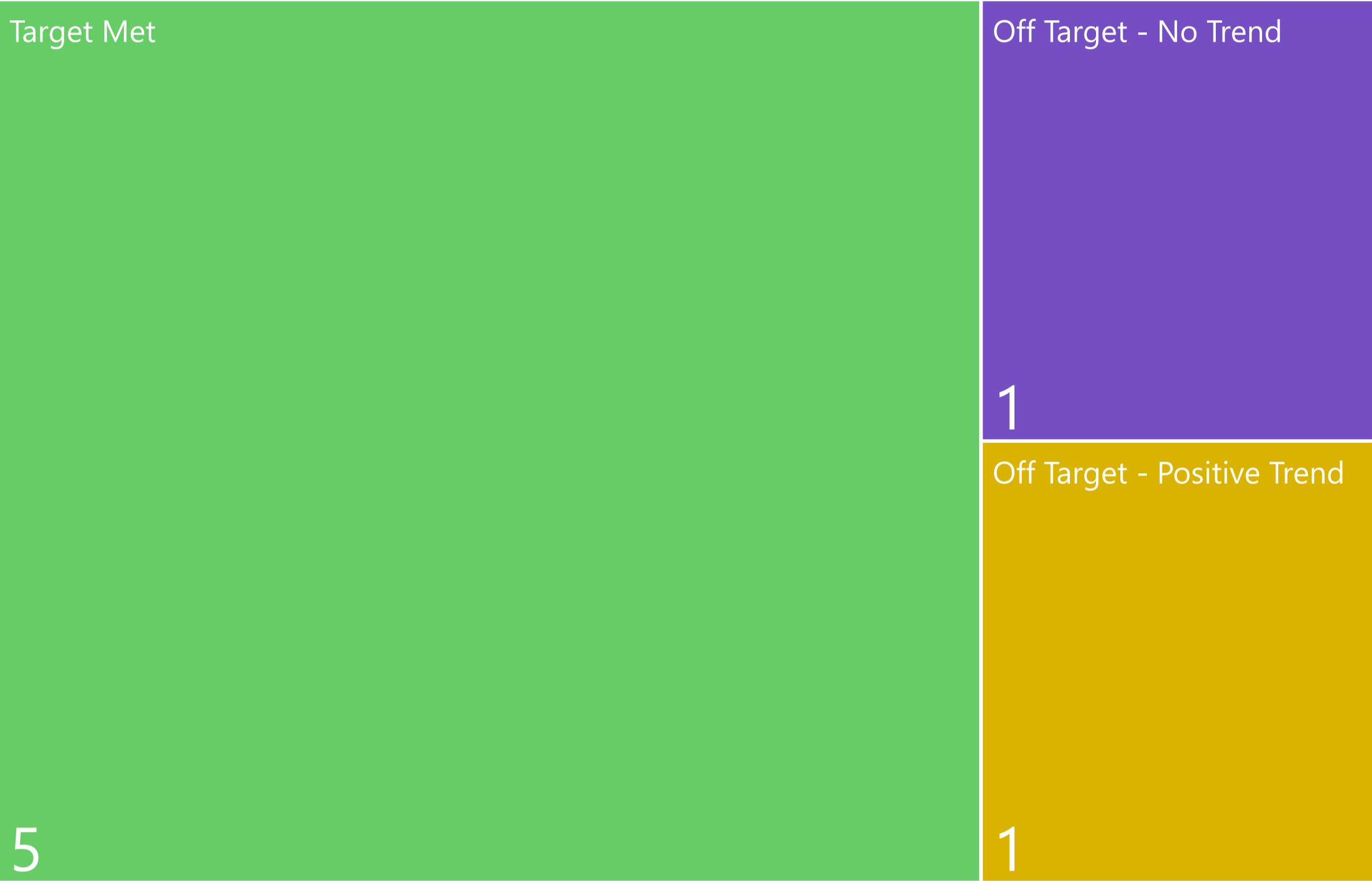
Project Status Split for Priority 1.

Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Project/Action is Completed
4	1

Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Simon Tagg	1. Strategy, People and Performance 2. All services	Deliver a Workforce Strategy	Develop professional talent across the Council and provide opportunities for staff to grow their careers	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Strategy in place in and progress with particular focus on health and wellbeing and leadership. Plans to align the apprenticeship process with outline workforce plans before this year's efficiency board to ensure talent pathways are in place.
Cllr. Simon Tagg	1. Strategy, People and Performance 2. IT and Digital 3. Neighbourhoods 4. All (digital enablement)	Deliver the One Council Programme	Ensure our services are efficient and accessible	★ Project/Action is Completed	Project/Action has been completed.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Finance 3. Legal & Governance	Identify and deliver opportunities to generate income from commercial development	Ensure strong financial discipline across the Council	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The Commercial Board considered the business case for the development of a pet cremation service, this is due to go to Cabinet in July.
Cllr. Simon Tagg	1. Strategy, People and Performance 2. All services	Work with our communities to ensure services reflect local need	Work with our communities to ensure services reflect local need	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Communications strategy seeks to ensure that all communities are represented and provided for. The Civic Pride programme looks to support communities working together.
Cllr. Simon Tagg	1. Strategy, People and Performance 2. neighbourhoods 3. Regulatory	Work with partners to deliver the best for our communities	Work with partners to deliver the best for our communities	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Partnership Board is established and productive. A planning event was held in June 2025 which set for the work plan and objectives moving forwards. Better Health Newcastle supports the achievement of health aims and targets through partnership working with Health and Voluntary services. The Authority has engaged with partners including the ICB on developing proposals to address key aspects of health inequality across the Borough.



Priority 2: Performance Indicators Current Status



Corporate Objective	Count
A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	1
Protecting our communities by improving how we use our enforcement powers.	2
Support the sustainable development of our towns and villages	4
Total	7

Smart Narrative

- A total of **7** measures were assigned targets this quarter. Of these, **71% achieved their targets**.
- **3** measures not only met their targets but also showed improvement compared to the same period last year. **2** met their targets but showed a negative year-on-year trend.
- The remaining **29%** did not meet their set targets this quarter.
- Of these, **1** measures showed year-on-year improvement. **1** lacked historical data for comparative analysis.
- There are no **contextual** measures within this priority.
- There are **2 projects/actions** identified as **not progressing as expected** with all other project/actions progressing as expected this quarter, with further details provided within this report. further details provided within this report.

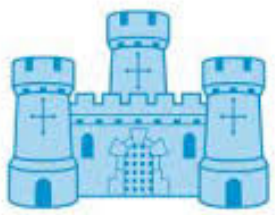
Priority 2: Summary Project Status Split

Priority 2: Qtr.1 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year

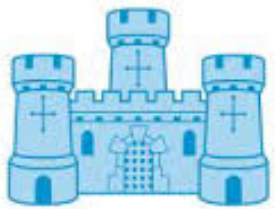
● Project/Action is Not Progressing as Expected ● Project/Action is Progressing as Expe...

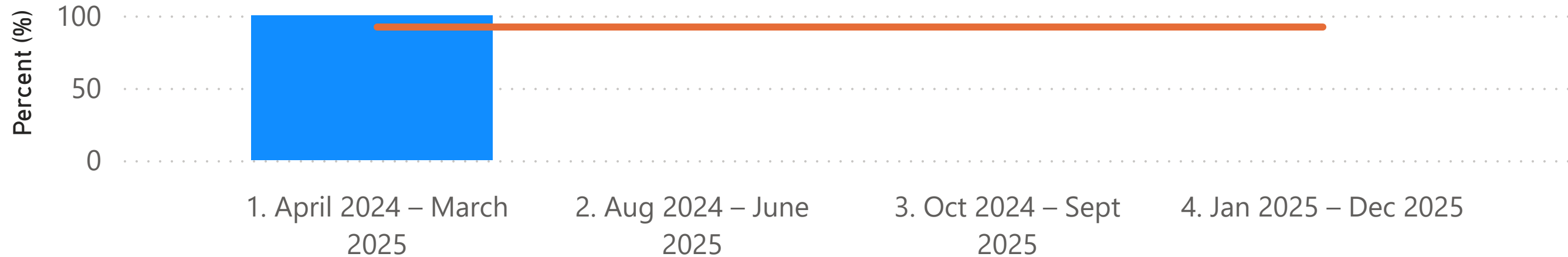
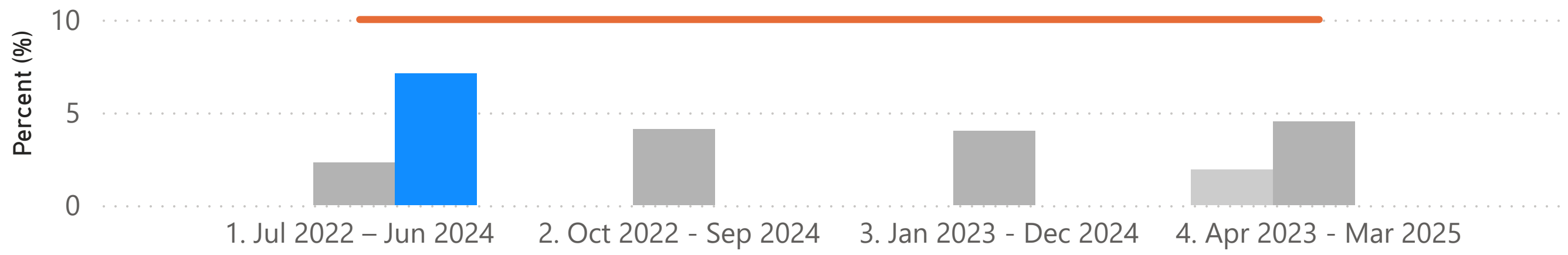

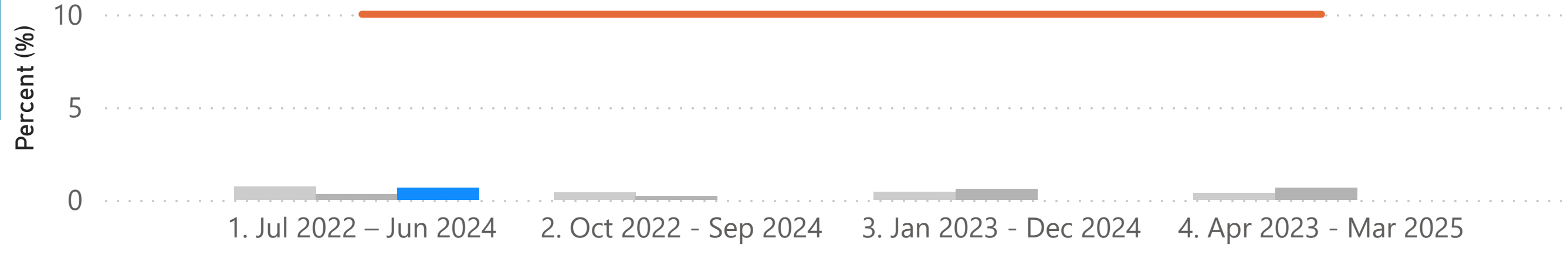


● Deterioration of Previous Year ● Improvement of Previous Year



ID2.1 - Percentage of investment portfolio vacant (NBC owned)		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
Low Is Good Per Quarter (Snapshot) Negative Yearly Trend	<div><div>FY</div><div><div>2023/24</div><div>2024/25</div><div>2025/26</div><div>Target</div></div></div> <div><div>Cllr Stephen Sweeney</div><div><div><div>Percent (%)</div><div>10</div><div>5</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1</div><div>Quarter 2</div><div>Quarter 3</div><div>Quarter 4</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div>	8.80✓	Not Required as Target Met
		Target: 11.00	
			A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits
ID2.6a - Year to Date - Percentage of complainants informed within the required timescales of any action to be taken about alleged breaches of planning control		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Positive Yearly Trend	<div><div>FY</div><div><div>2023/24</div><div>2024/25</div><div>2025/26</div><div>Target</div></div></div> <div><div>Cllr. Andrew Fear</div><div><div><div>Percent (%)</div><div>50</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div>	63.70!	Target: 75.00
			Performance in this quarter is lower than was reported previously due to an extremely high amount of correspondence being received for certain planning applications that has taken up a great deal of Officer time. This has resulted in delays in the processing of enforcement complaints. It is anticipated that there will be improvement in the next quarter as the amount of incoming correspondence reduces to normal levels.
			(Blank)
ID2.6b - Quarter in Isolation - Percentage of complainants informed within the required timescales of any action to be taken about alleged breaches of planning control		Current Status	
High Is Good Per Quarter (Snapshot) N/A Yearly Trend	<div><div>FY</div><div><div>2025/26</div><div>Target</div></div></div> <div><div>Cllr. Andrew Fear</div><div><div><div>Percent (%)</div><div>50</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1</div><div>Quarter 2</div><div>Quarter 3</div><div>Quarter 4</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div>	63.70	Target: 75.00



High Is Good Planning N/A Yearly Trend	ID2.2 - Speed of major development applications (P151a - 12 Month Rolling Period up to End of Each Quarter)				Current Status		SMART Actions if Off Target	
	FY ● 2025/26 ● Target Cllr. Andrew Fear				100.00✓		The updated "Improving Planning Performance: Criteria for Designation" document has changed the assessment period for speed of decision-making for both major and non-major applications from 24 months to 12 months - because of this no annual comparison is available this year. Measure shown is the % within 13 weeks or within agreed time - Central Gov metric which measures a rolling time period of 12 months - Newest metric showing up until the end of March 2025	
								
	Timeframe of Measure				Target: 92.00			
Low Is Good Planning Negative Yearly Trend	ID2.3 - Quality of major development applications (P152a - 24 Month Rolling Period - See SMART Actions)				Current Status		SMART Actions if Off Target	
	FY ● 2023/24 ● 2024/25 ● 2025/26 ● Target Cllr. Andrew Fear				7.10✓		Measure shown is the Quality of decisions (% overturned at appeal) - Central Gov metric which measures a rolling time period of 24 months - They have currently advised they are behind schedule. Newest metric shows the following time period July 2022 – June 2024	
								
	Timeframe of Measure				Target: 10.00			
High Is Good Planning N/A Yearly Trend	ID2.4 - Speed of non-major development applications (P153 - 12 Month Rolling Period up to End of Each Quarter)				Current Status		SMART Actions if Off Target	
	FY ● 2025/26 ● Target Cllr. Andrew Fear				95.20✓		The updated "Improving Planning Performance: Criteria for Designation" document has changed the assessment period for speed of decision-making for both major and non-major applications from 24 months to 12 months - because of this no annual comparison is available this year. Measure shown is the % within 13 weeks or within agreed time - Central Gov metric which measures a rolling time period of 12 months - Newest metric showing up until the end of March 2025	
								
	Timeframe of Measure				Target: 90.00			
Low Is Good Planning Negative Yearly Trend	ID2.5 - Quality of non-major development applications (P154 - 24 Month Rolling Period - See SMART Actions)				Current Status		SMART Actions if Off Target	
	FY ● 2023/24 ● 2024/25 ● 2025/26 ● Target Cllr. Andrew Fear				0.65✓		Measure shown is the Quality of decisions (% overturned at appeal) - Central Gov metric which measures a rolling time period of 24 months - They have currently advised they are behind schedule. Newest metric shows the following time period July 2022 – June 2024	
								
	Timeframe of Measure				Target: 10.00			

Support the sustainable development of our towns and villages

Support the sustainable development of our towns and villages



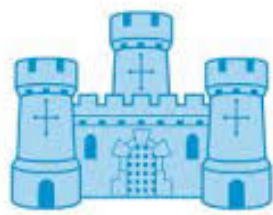
Project Status Split for Priority 2.

Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Project/Action is ...
9	1

Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Sustainable Environment 2. All	Deliver the Sustainable Environment Strategy	Ensuring that the Council's operations are carbon neutral by 2030	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	All Council Directorates now have action/delivery plans for their own areas, with regular update meetings being held with SE staff. A dashboard has been developed for monitoring progress which can be used to update CLT, Cabinet and wider Council members. Sustainable One Council Board has now met twice and again monitors progress on delivery of the SES.
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Regulatory 2. Neighbourhoods	Secure a successful resolution to the Walley's Quarry odour problem.	Protecting our communities by improving how we use our enforcement powers.	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	<p>Following Walleys Quarry Ltd entering into liquidation at the end of February 2025 and the subsequent disclaimer of the environmental permits, the Environment Agency are using their discretionary power to arrange for steps to be taken to remove the risk of serious pollution.</p> <p>The contractor appointed to undertake the work has now completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- works to manage the accumulation of liquid in the western void- the installation of a new drain in the western void to manage any landfill gas and leachate- a new access track to the western flank of the landfill site to allow access to this part of the site for equipment and materials <p>The contractor continues to progress with the following works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- installation of an engineered clay bund to the waste flank in the western void- engineering works to remedy shallow surface depressions and capping defects on the top of the site <p>Materials (e.g. clay) continue to be brought onto site to undertake the works. The site however remains closed to any incoming waste.</p> <p>In Quarter 1, the data shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- odour complaints reported to NULBC have reduced further and stabilised at a lower level of 24 (April), 15 (May) and 16 (June)- there has been no weekly exceedance of the World Health Organisation [WHO] odour annoyance guideline throughout this period
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Neighbourhoods	Protect our parks and green spaces for future generations	Ensuring that the Council's operations are carbon neutral by 2030	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Phase 7 of the Borough Tree Planting Strategy is now being planned for delivery in winter 2025/26. Funding bids are being prepared and design work is in progress. Applications for Fields in Trust status are in progress for identified sites to protect them for the future.
Cllr. Gill Heesom	1. Regulatory 2. Legal & Governance	Ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live	Ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The Housing Strategy and the Homelessness and Rough Seeping Strategy are both due for renewal in 25/26. Work has commenced to research and develop a new combined strategy. Work has also included preparation for new legislation relating to The Renters Reform Bill and Supported Accommodation Licensing.



Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Strategy, People and Performance 3. Finance	Continue to bid for government funding to support the borough's ambitions, including the further development of Keele Science and Innovation Park and the University Growth Corridor.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	✓ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Quarter one delivery has taken place for the Shared Prosperity Fund schemes. Currently we are in discussions with Homes England for grant support for the town center regeneration projects. Future funding opportunities will continue to be investigated but LGR is limiting these opportunities currently.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Delivering the £16m Kidsgrove Town Deal, including: Facilitating the Chatterley Valley Enterprise Zone development to deliver 1700 quality jobs for local people; Enhancing Kidsgrove Railway Station and access to the local canal network; Developing a Shared Service Hub with key partners.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	! Project/Action is Not Progressing as Expected	The Town Deal Board met in May to review the railway station and the shared service hub projects. The railway station project is undergoing a scope reduction / redesign exercise to bring the scheme in within the available budget and avoiding land on the site which will need remediation for coal mines, whilst the shared service hub budget / project has been re-allocated into four separate projects to deliver enterprise units, a community learning hub and public realm / highways improvements.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Delivering the £23m Newcastle Town Deal, including: Development of key gateway sites including the 'Zanzibar' and Midway; Connecting residents and businesses to skills training for the digital world; Improving bus, cycling and walking infrastructure; Delivering a circus-themed performing arts Centre; Building more than 400 homes in Knutton and Chesterton.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	✓ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Project delivery continues with the roll out of the Real Time Passenger Information at key bus stops, groundwork for the new housing developments at Knutton and Chesterton continues and the work on the fibre network continues. Plans continue for the housing redevelopment at the Carpark site.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Neighbourhoods	Delivering the £4.8m Uk Shared Prosperity Fund programme, including: Improving the town centre; Supporting culture and heritage; Skills development for local people; Supporting the most vulnerable people.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	✓ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	On 13th December 2024, the UK government confirmed that Newcastle under Lyme will receive an additional year of SPF funding of £1,582,136 in 2025/26. £292,112 of this allocation must be used as capital. The aim of this additional SPF 'transition' year is to provide a smooth transition from the existing SPF programme to a new, yet to be confirmed, future funding framework. The programme continues with the previously set priorities and but has streamlined the list of outcomes and outputs for UKSPF delivery in 2025-26. The Communities and Place investment priority focuses on supporting place and aiding voluntary and community groups. Under the Supporting Local Businesses investment priority, interventions have primarily focused on innovation and startup advice for local businesses, as well as support for entrepreneurship activities and business startups. The People and Skills investment priority must concentrate on reducing the skills gap in the area and helping individuals move towards the labour market. We are currently running 23 projects which are providing services which address a strong and sustainable economy to ensure opportunities and support are available to everyone to improve their lives.
Cllr. Andrew Fear	1. Planning 2. Legal & Governance	Delivering the Newcastle Local Plan	Support the sustainable development of our towns and villages	✓ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The Local Plan was submitted for examination on the 20 December 2024. Local Plan Public Examination Hearing Sessions were held on the week of the 19 May and then further weeks of hearings were held on the 16 and 23 of June respectively. The Council is now completing a number of 'action points' that have arisen during the examination hearings and then will await the interim views of the Inspector on the next stages with the examination of the Local Plan.
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Sustainable Environment 2. All	Play an active role in the Staffordshire Sustainability Board	Secure a carbon neutral Borough by 2050	✓ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	the Council continues to play a leading role in the Staffordshire Sustainability Board. the Council is as of June the only authority within the partnership to have completed successfully all ten base pledges. Work is now looking at a new set of pledges which will incorporate sustainability and waste pledges in equal measure.



Priority 3: Performance Indicators Current Status

Contextual

13

Target Met

12

Off ...

1

Off ...

1

Corporate Objective	Count
Delivering an economic and cultural legacy from the celebration of the borough's 850th anniversary in 2023.	1
Ensure that our most vulnerable residents are supported through the impact of the rising cost of living.	1
Ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live	10
Further increasing recycling rates across the borough with a particular focus on food waste	4
Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in our communities	5
Secure a step change in street cleanliness and the quality of the public domain	6
Support the development of community solutions to local problems	1
Total	28

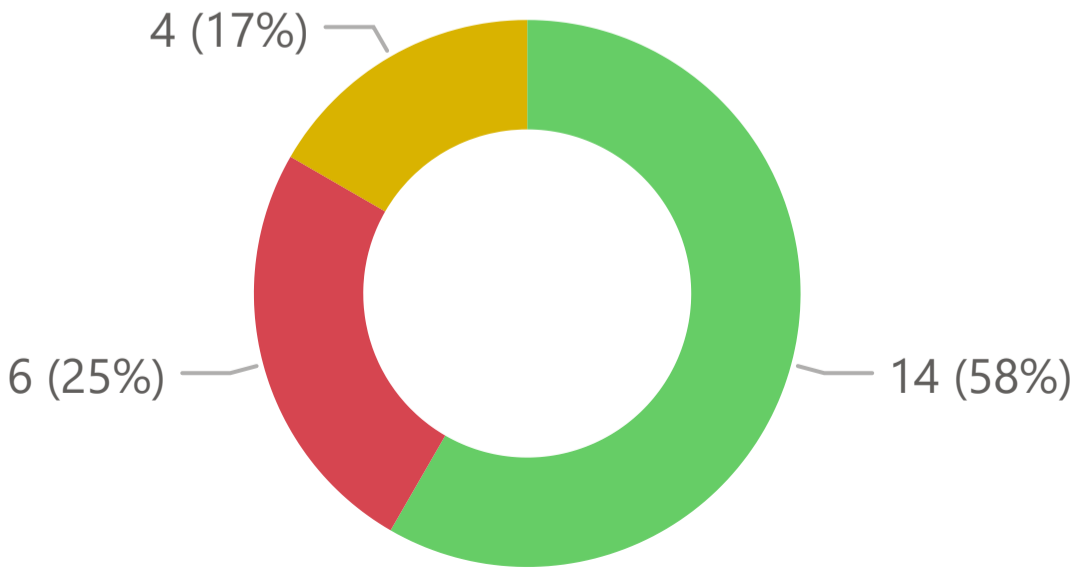
Smart Narrative

- A total of **14** measures were assigned targets this quarter. Of these, **86% achieved their targets**.
- **6** measures not only met their targets but also showed improvement. **1** met their targets but showed a negative year-on-year trend. **3** showed no change. **2** had no historical data available for comparison.
- The remaining **14%** did not meet their set targets this quarter.
- Of these, **1** demonstrated a negative trend compared to the same period last year. **1** had no historical data available for comparison.
- An additional **13 measures were contextual** and therefore did not have set targets.
- **8** showed improvement. **4** showed a decline. **1** remained unchanged.
- **2 projects/actions** has been completed, with all other project/actions progressing as expected this quarter.

Priority 3: Summary Project Status Split

Priority 3: Qtr.1 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year

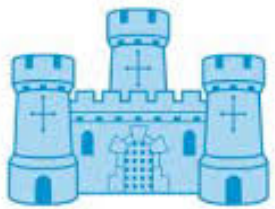
● Project/Action is Completed ● Project/Action is Progressing as Expected



● Improvement of Previous Year ● Deterioration of Previous Year ● No Change



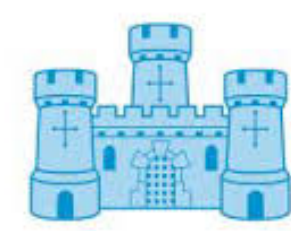
Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities



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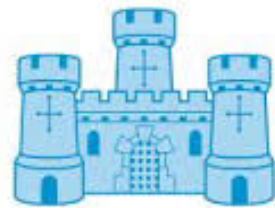
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Negative Yearly Trend	ID1.4a - Total % of materials collected for recycling and composting verified via WDF		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
	FY ● 2023/24 ● 2024/25 ● 2025/26 ● Target		Cllr. David Hutchison	
			50.99! Target: 51.00	
			At the end of Quarter 1, the measure fell just 0.01% short of the newly set stretching target. However, it would have successfully met the previous year's target. Performance in Quarter 1 shows a slight decline compared to the same period in the last financial year	
High Is Good Per Quarter (Snapshot) N/A Yearly Trend	ID1.4b - Food:- Household collections from the kerbside (%)		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
	FY ● 2024/25 ● 2025/26 ● Target		Cllr. David Hutchison	
			N/A Target: 37.00	
			The Food Survey will be conducted and reported biannually, with results to be published in Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 reports.	
Low Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Positive Yearly Trend	ID1.4c - Residual Waste per household:- Household collections from the kerbside (Kgs)		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
	FY ● 2023/24 ● 2024/25 ● 2025/26 ● Target		Cllr. David Hutchison	
			96.58✓ Target: 103.75	
			Not Required as Target Met	
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Negative Yearly Trend	ID1.4d - Percentage of Successful Collections		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
	FY ● 2023/24 ● 2024/25 ● Average of Target		Cllr. David Hutchison	
			99.97✓ Target: 99.60	
			Not Required as Target Met	

Further increasing recycling rates across the borough with a particular focus on food waste



High Is Good		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
Per Quarter (Snapshot)	ID1.5a - Litter: Levels of street and environment cleanliness (LAMS survey) free / predominantly free of litter		
	FY 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 Target Cllr. David Hutchison		
		100.00✓	Not Required as Target Met
	Positive Yearly Trend	Target: 94.00	
High Is Good		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
Per Quarter (Snapshot)	ID1.5b - Detritus: Levels of street and environment cleanliness (LAMS survey) free / predominantly free of detritus		
	FY 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 Target Cllr. David Hutchison		
		100.00✓	Not Required as Target Met
	No Change Yearly Trend	Target: 95.00	
High Is Good		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
Per Quarter (Snapshot)	ID1.5c -d environment cleanlin_Levels of street aness (LAMS survey) free / predominantly free of graffiti		
	FY 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 Target Cllr. David Hutchison		
		100.00✓	Not Required as Target Met
	No Change Yearly Trend	Target: 98.00	
High Is Good		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target
Per Quarter (Snapshot)	ID1.5d - Fly-Posting: Levels of street and environment cleanliness (LAMS survey) free / predominantly free of fly-posting		
	FY 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 Target Cllr. David Hutchison		
		100.00✓	Not Required as Target Met
	No Change Yearly Trend	Target: 99.00	

Secure a step change in street cleanliness and the quality of the public domain



Low Is Good Cumulative Negative Yearly Trend	ID3.11 - Number of Fly-Tipping Incidents (as per national measure)		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target	Secure a step change in street cleanliness and the quality of the public domain	
	<div><div>FY</div><div><div>2023/24</div><div>2024/25</div><div>2025/26</div></div></div> <div><div>Number</div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div> <div>Cllr. David Hutchison</div> <div>263</div> <div>Quarter 1 has seen a slight increase in fly-tipping incidents compared to the same period last financial year, with 18 more cases reported. However, other monitored metrics show positive developments—clean-up times have improved and a greater number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) are being issued. These actions are expected to contribute to a reduction in incidents going forward.</div>					
Low Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Positive Yearly Trend	ID3.12 - Average number of days from report of fly-tipping to clear-up (Case closed)		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target		
	<div><div>FY</div><div><div>2024/25</div><div>2025/26</div><div>Target</div></div></div> <div><div>Days</div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div> <div>Cllr. David Hutchison</div> <div>4.76✓</div> <div>Not Required as Target Met</div> <div>Target: 6.00</div>					
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Positive Yearly Trend	ID3.13 - % of fly-tipping incidents where sufficient evidence gathered to proceed to formal enforcement		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target	Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in our communities	
	<div><div>FY</div><div><div>2024/25</div><div>2025/26</div><div>Target</div></div></div> <div><div>Percent (%)</div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div> <div>Cllr. David Hutchison</div> <div>5.57✓</div> <div>Not Required as Target Met</div> <div>Target: 1.50</div>					
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) Positive Yearly Trend	ID3.14 - Number of Fly-tipping FPNs issued		Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target		
	<div><div>FY</div><div><div>2024/25</div><div>2025/26</div><div>Target</div></div></div> <div><div>Number</div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div></div> <div>Cllr. David Hutchison</div> <div>5✓</div> <div>Not Required as Target Met</div> <div>Target: 2.50</div>					

Secure a step change in street cleanliness and the quality of the public domain

Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in our communities



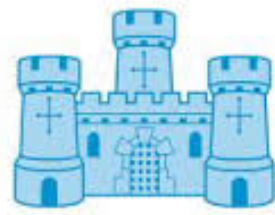
Delivering an economic and cultural legacy from the celebration of the borough's 850th anniversary in 2023.

Support the development of community solutions to local problems

Data not yet available for this indicator, anticipated that survey data will be made available for Quarter 2 report.



Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities



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ID3.1a - Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) cases - New cases received during the quarter

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target

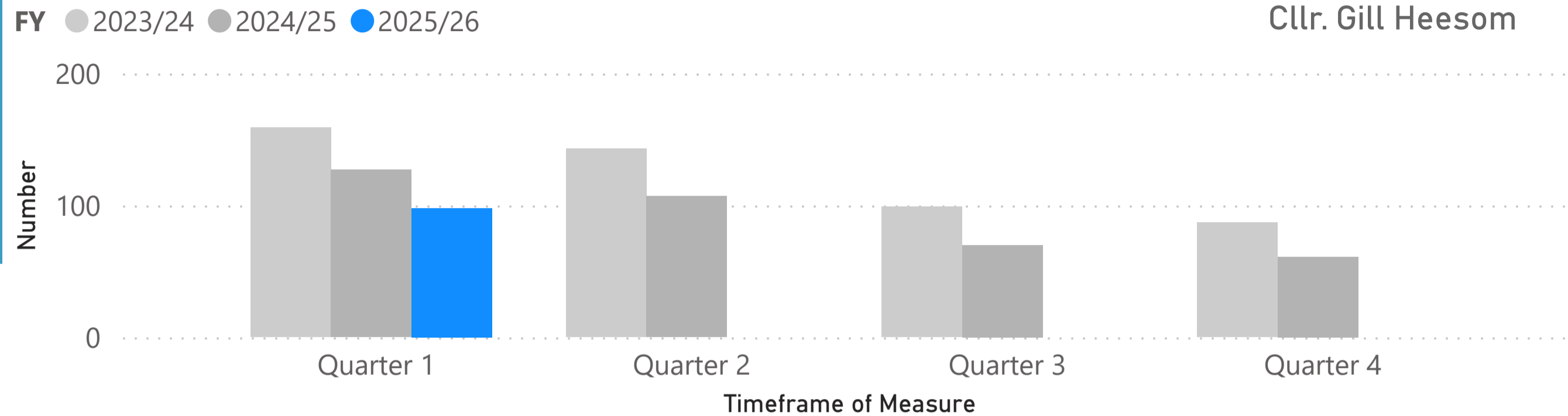
Low

Is Good

Per
Quarter
(Snapshot)

Positive

Yearly Trend



98

Quarter 1 has seen 29 fewer cases received compared to the same period last financial year. Recent training has been delivered to professionals focused on effectively triaging and assessing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) cases, enhancing response quality and consistency. Additionally, we are actively contributing to the development of a county-wide ASB policy, which will define clear expectations for the public across all partner organisations.

ID3.1b - (ASB) cases - Current open cases at the end of the quarter

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target

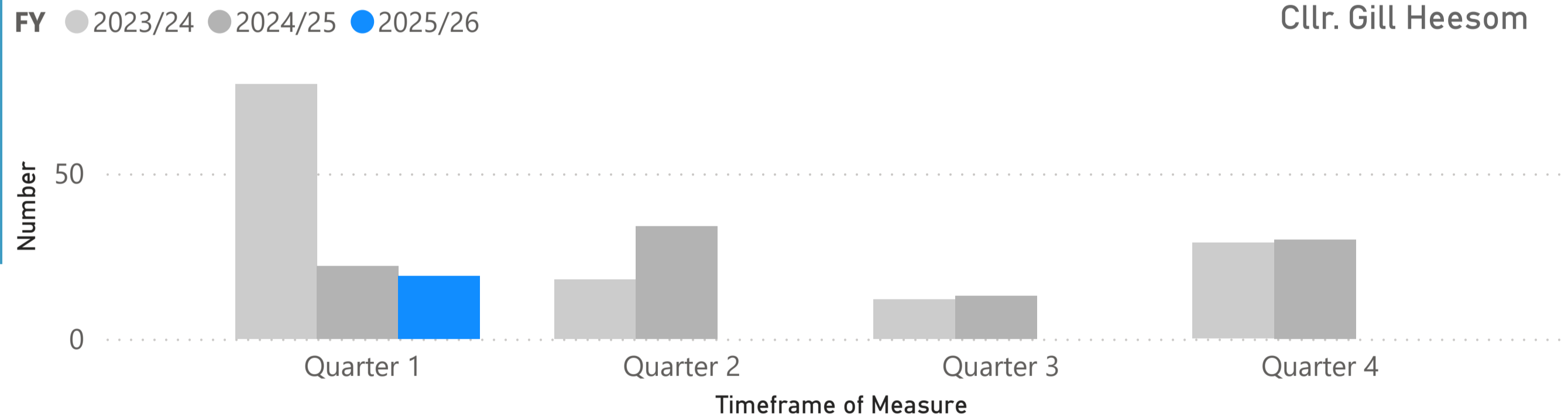
Low

Is Good

Per
Quarter
(Snapshot)

Positive

Yearly Trend



19

We continue partnership working to reduce ASB and ensure any complaints are dealt with efficiently and effectively in a timely manner.

ID3.1c - (ASB) cases - Cases closed in the quarter

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target

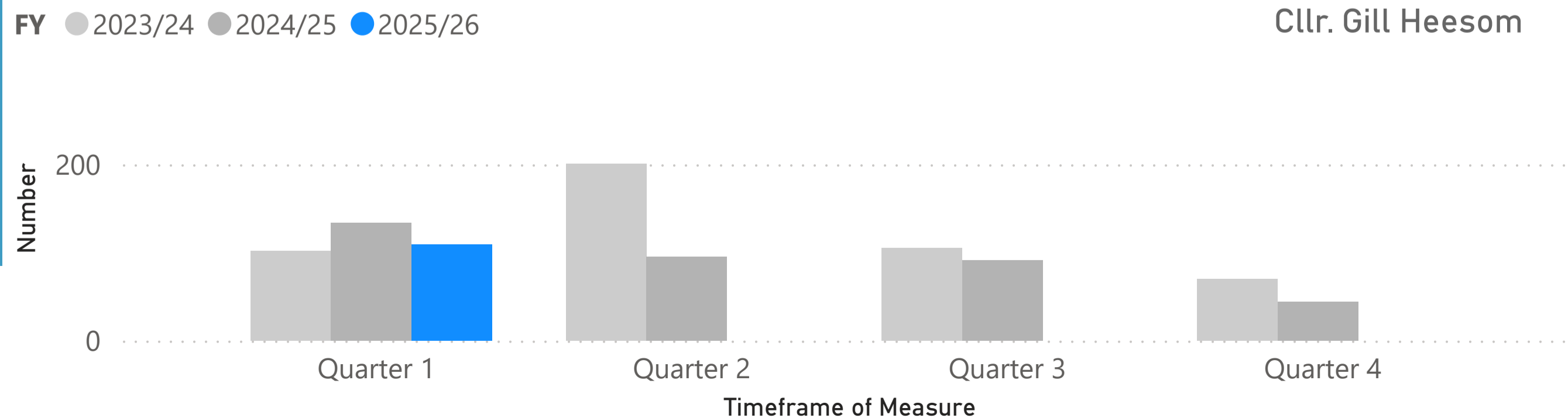
High

Is Good

Per
Quarter
(Snapshot)

Negative

Yearly Trend



109

We continue partnership working to reduce ASB and ensure any complaints are dealt with efficiently and effectively in a timely manner.

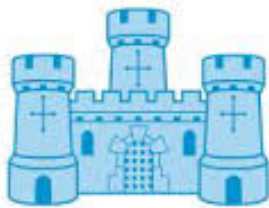
Reduce
anti-social
behaviour
and crime in
our
communities



Low Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum)		ID3.2 - Number of referrals made regarding vulnerability by participating organisations at the Daily Hub	Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target	Ensure that our most vulnerable residents are supported through the impact of the rising cost of living.
Positive Yearly Trend		<div><div>FY</div><div><div>● 2023/24</div><div>● 2024/25</div><div>● 2025/26</div></div><div><div>Number</div><div>200</div><div>100</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div> <div>Cllr. Gill Heesom</div>	35	The vulnerability Hub continues to have a high number of complex cases with a broad range of vulnerabilities. The Hub partners are going to consider putting on a ‘Vulnerability’ Day to try and raise awareness on the range of issues people are facing with a view to accessing support earlier, we will look at this ahead of the winter.	
Low Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum)		ID3.8 - Emergency homeless presentations	Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target	
Negative Yearly Trend		<div><div>FY</div><div><div>● 2023/24</div><div>● 2024/25</div><div>● 2025/26</div></div><div><div>Number</div><div>500</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div> <div>Cllr. Gill Heesom</div>	125	All Homeless tonight presentations are monitored. A focus on earlier intervention.	
Low Is Good Per Quarter (Snapshot)		ID3.9 - The average number of working days from occupational health referral to completion of works for stairlifts provided by a DFG	Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target	Ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live
N/A Yearly Trend		<div><div>FY</div><div><div>● 2025/26</div><div>● Target</div></div><div><div>Number</div><div>100</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1</div><div>Quarter 2</div><div>Quarter 3</div><div>Quarter 4</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div> <div>Cllr. Gill Heesom</div>	145! Target: 130.00	Four stairlifts were completed in Quarter 1, with three delivered within target timeframes. One installation was delayed due to a design revision required by the manufacturer, resulting in an outlier. As installation activity increases throughout the year, the overall completion average is expected to improve	
High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum)		ID3.10 - Percentage of non-complex Disabled Facilities Grants completed in 120 days from occupational health referral	Current Status	SMART Actions if Off Target	
N/A Yearly Trend		<div><div>FY</div><div><div>● 2025/26</div><div>● Target</div></div><div><div>Number</div><div>50</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>Quarter 1 - April to June</div><div>Quarter 2 - April to Sept</div><div>Quarter 3 - April to Dec</div><div>Quarter 4 - April to March</div></div><div>Timeframe of Measure</div></div> <div>Cllr. Gill Heesom</div>	66✓ Target: 65.00	Not Required as Target Met	



Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities



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Low
Is Good

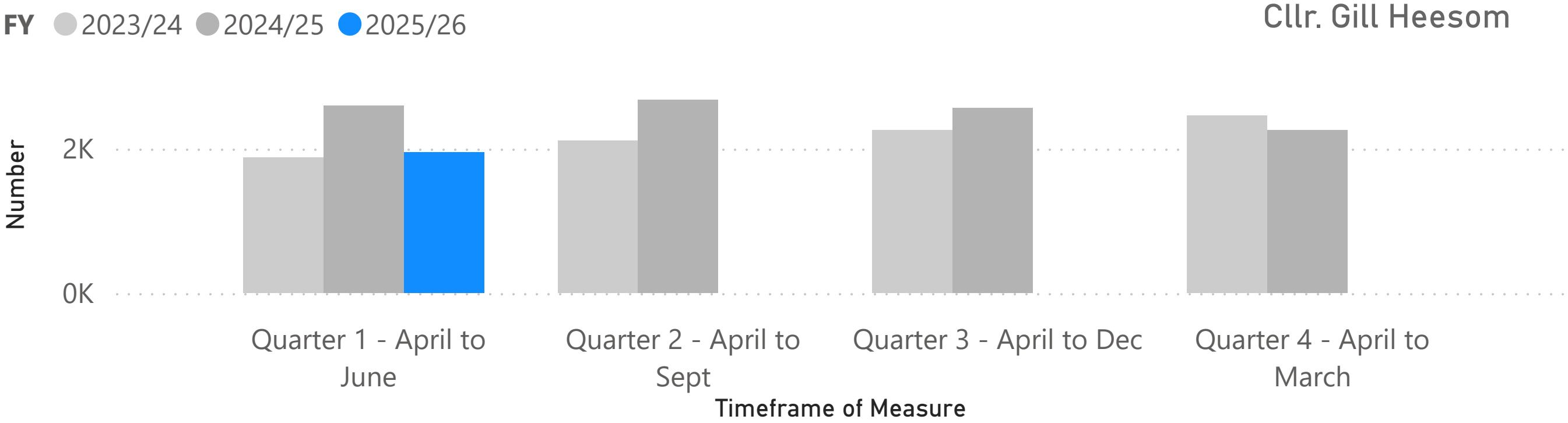
Per
Quarter
(Snapshot)

Positive
Yearly Trend

ID3.6 - Live application on the housing register

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target



1,951

Trend increasing however compared to the previous year shows a reduction. Review module now in place.

High
Is Good

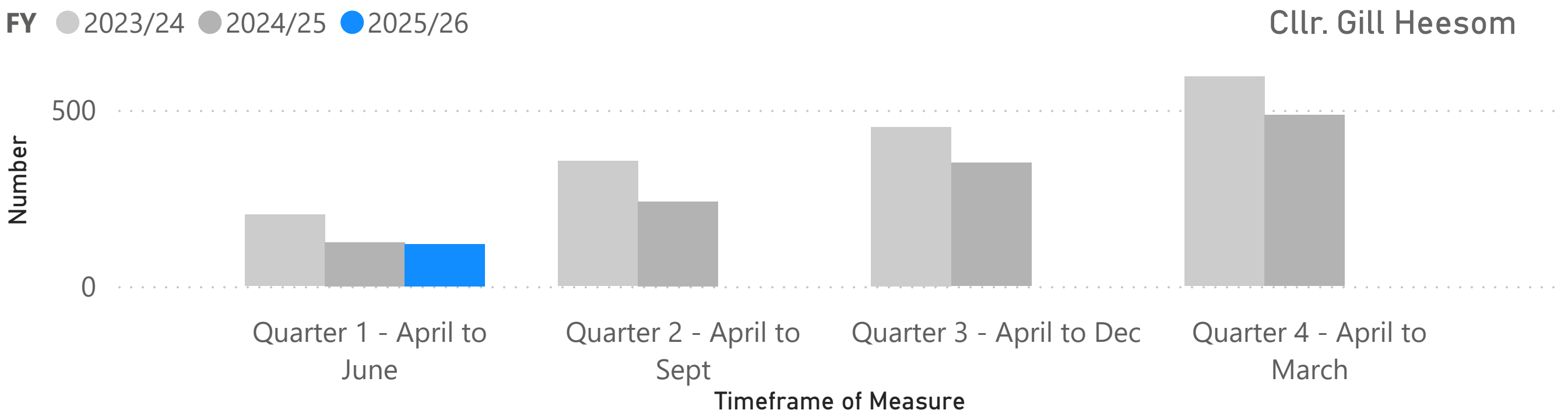
Per
Quarter
(Snapshot)

Negative
Yearly Trend

ID3.7 - Number of lets to registered providers from the housing waiting list

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target



119

Nominations are monitored through Lettings Forum meetings. Nomination targets (75% for Aspire / 50% other providers)

Low
Is Good

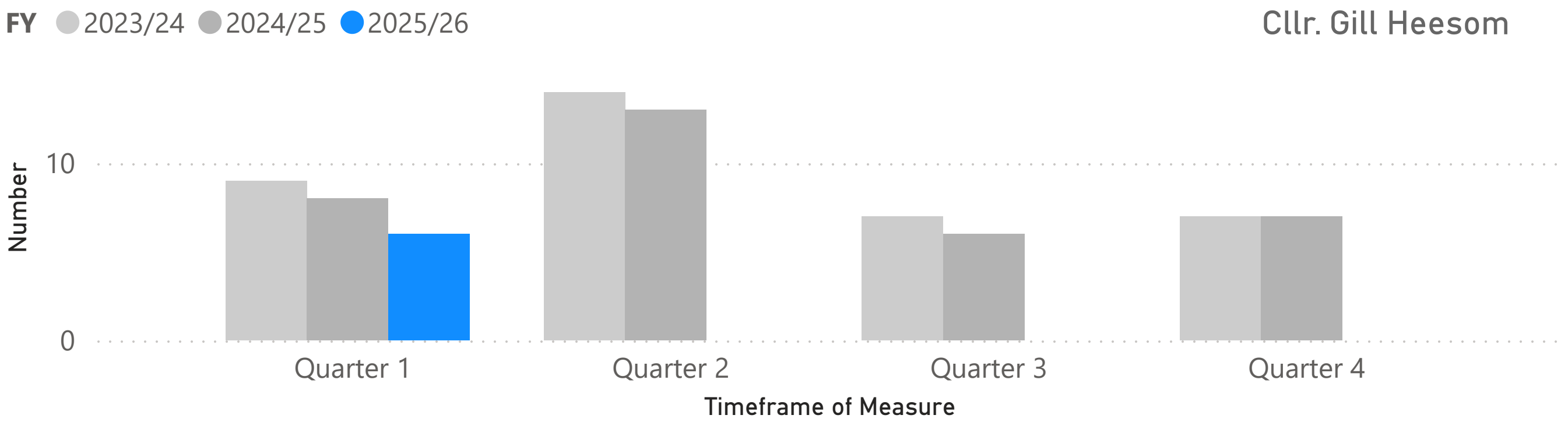
Per
Quarter
(Snapshot)

Positive
Yearly Trend

ID4.4 - Total Rough Sleepers Verified in Quarter

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target

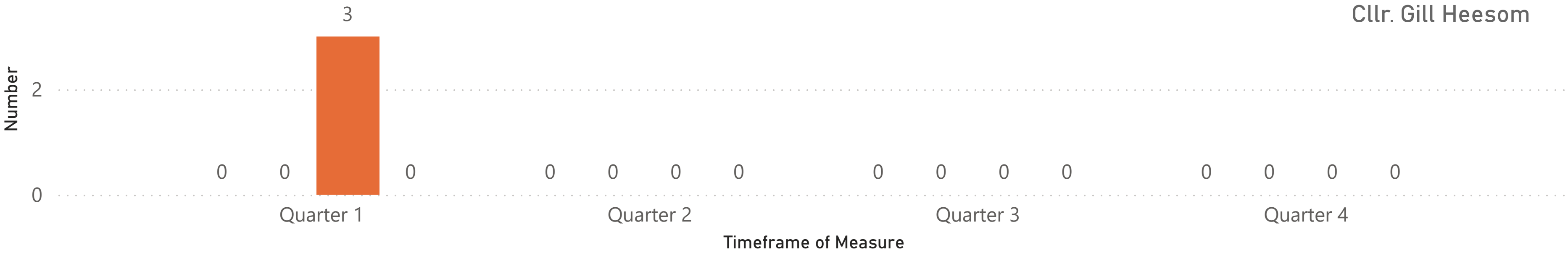


6

A vast improvement from last year's annual count which was 10. This year the count took place 20th November when we verified 7 rough sleepers. This reduction in figures is attributed to the hard work and dedication of the team.

ID4.4a, 4.4b, 4.4c and 4.4d - Breakdown of Rough Sleepers Verified in Quarter

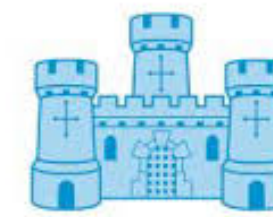
● 1. Prevented 1 - New Rough Sleepers ● 2. Non-Recurring 1 - Returning Rough Sleepers ● 3. Brief 1 - Entrenched Rough Sleepers ● 4. Prevented 2 - Rough Sleepers after ...



Ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live



Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities



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BOROUGH COUNCIL

Project Status Split for Priority 3.

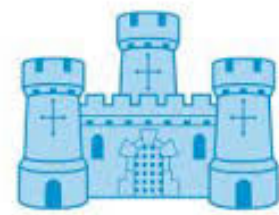
Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

4

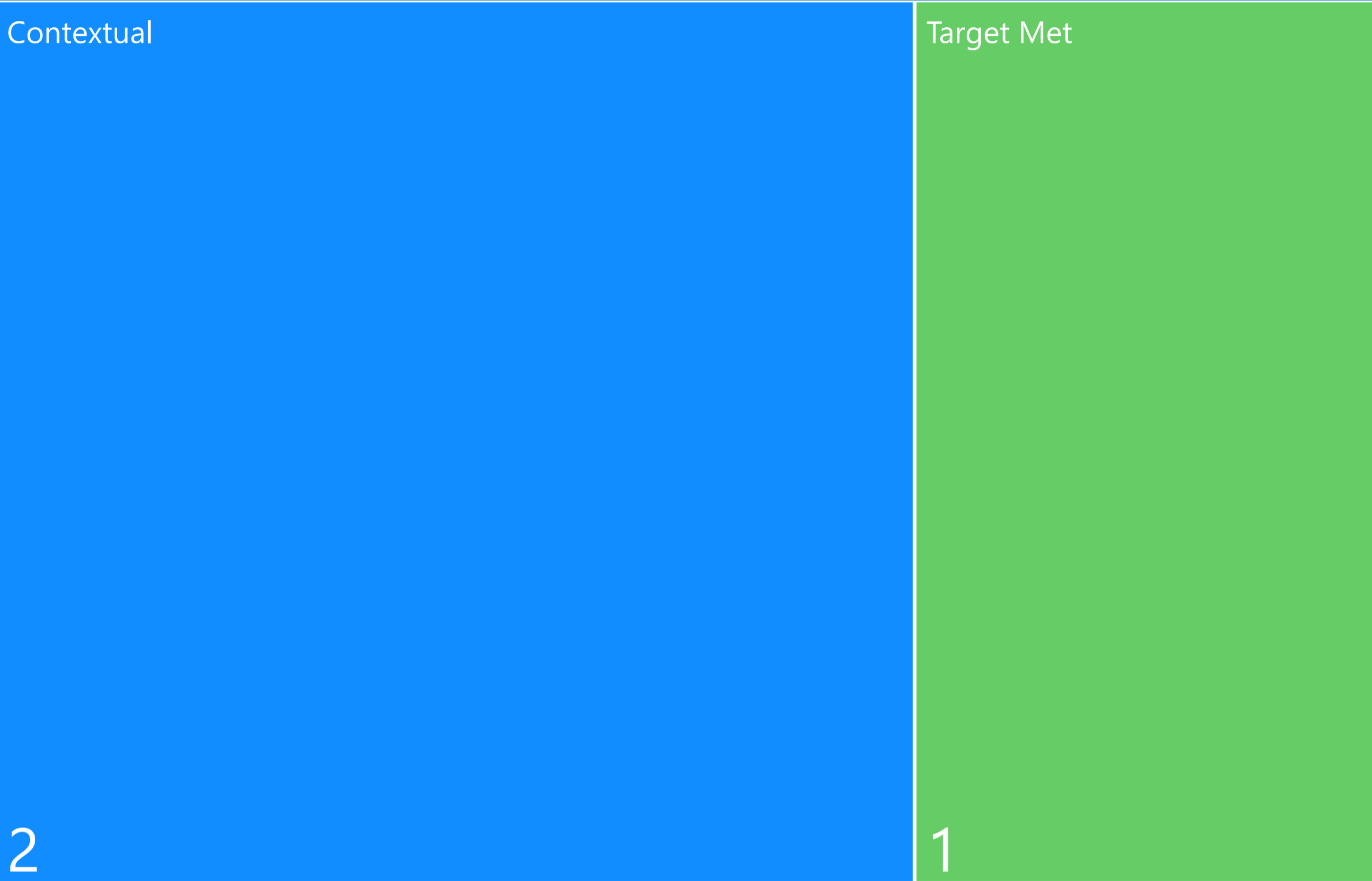
Project/Action is Completed

2

Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Gill Heesom	Neighbourhoods	Build on our work with Staffordshire Police	Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in our communities	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The Community Safety Partnership action plan has been updated for 2025/26 in accordance with the refreshed Strategic Assessment. Partnership work with Staffordshire Police is ongoing, with a particular focus on Newcastle town centre. The town centre PSPO is being reviewed with a view to amending it later in 2025, subject to consultation.
Cllr. Craig Skelding	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Neighbourhoods	Delivering an economic and cultural legacy from the celebration of the borough's 850th anniversary in 2023.	Delivering an economic and cultural legacy from the celebration of the borough's 850th anniversary in 2023.	★ Project/Action is Completed	Project/Action has been completed.
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Neighbourhoods 2. Sustainable Environment	Expansion of the street warden scheme and the creation of neighbourhood delivery teams.	Secure a step change in street cleanliness and the quality of the public domain	★ Project/Action is Completed	Project/Action has been completed.
Cllr. David Hutchison	Sustainable Environment	Further increasing recycling rates across the borough with a particular focus on food waste	Further increasing recycling rates across the borough with a particular focus on food waste	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The Council has introduced collections of flexible plastics and film as well as cartons two years ahead of mandatory inclusion. Targeted food waste communications are continuing.
Cllr. Simon Tagg	1. Strategy, People and Performance 2. Neighbourhoods	Work collaboratively with the Newcastle Partnership	Ensure that our most vulnerable residents are supported through the impact of the rising cost of living.	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Prevent and Protect agendas are embedded in ways of working to support community safety and confidence. Better Health Programme is working to directly positively impact the physical health of our communities. Partnership Board brings a variety of partners together to share and collaborate on core community goals.
Cllr. Craig Skelding	Neighbourhoods	Work with partners to develop effective community bodies	Support the development of community solutions to local problems	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The Civic Pride initiative is progressing with partners, with events held or scheduled in all neighbourhoods across the Borough to engage with local community groups and volunteers. The Civic Pride Strategy will be launched for consultation in July and the Civic Pride Investment Fund is now open, with the first round of applications closing on 11th July.



Priority 4: Performance Indicators Current Status



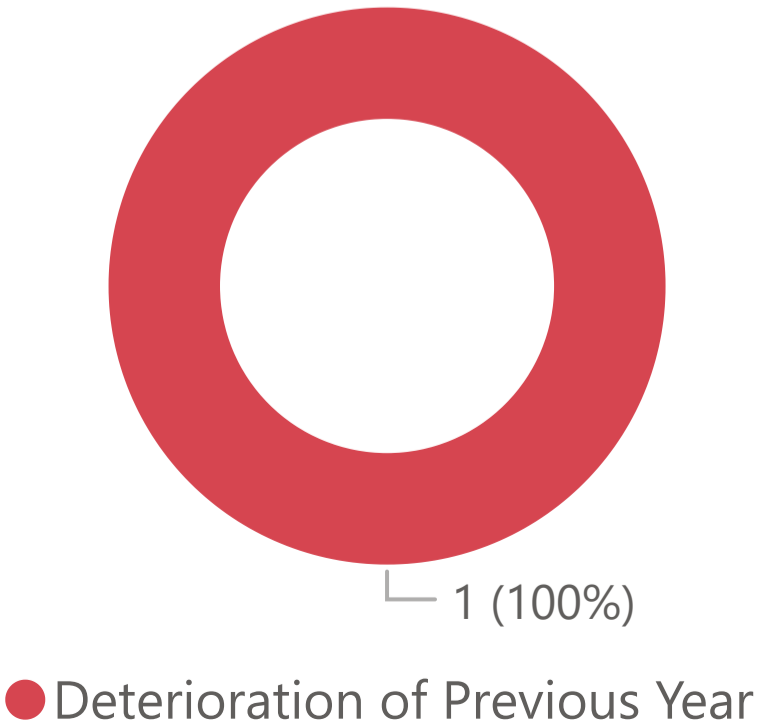
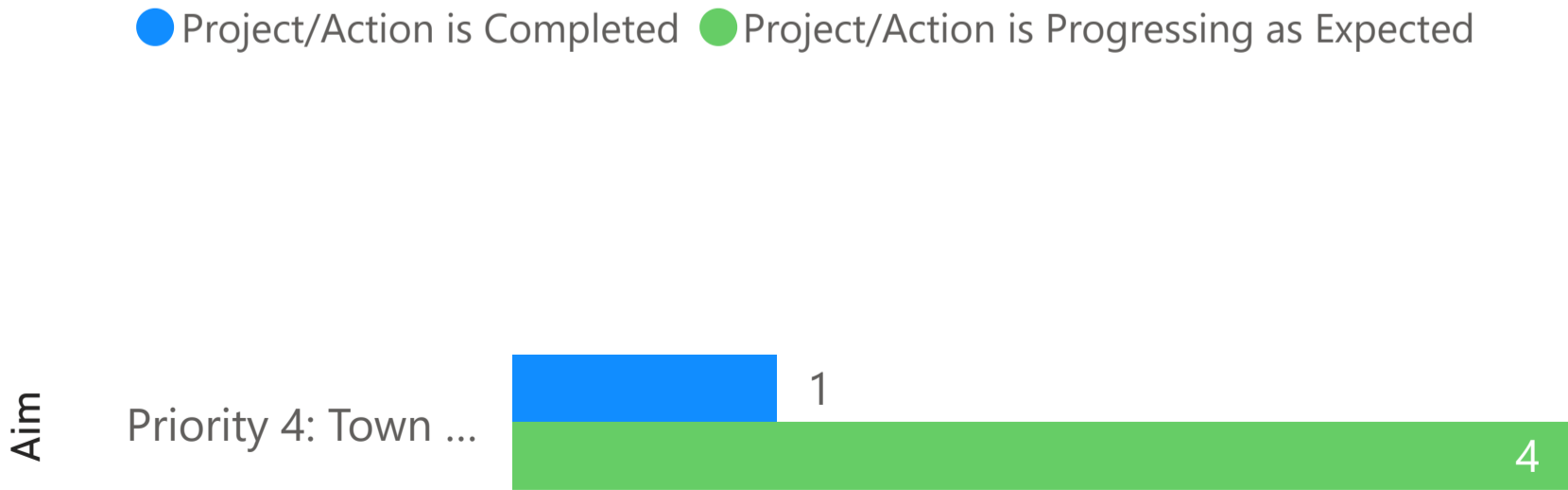
Corporate Objective	Count
Increasing the number of people living, working and using Newcastle town Centre	3
Total	3

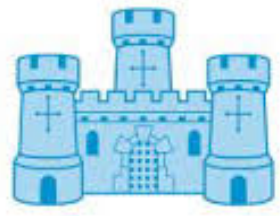
Smart Narrative

- A total of **1** measures were assigned targets this quarter. Of these, **100% achieved their targets**.
- An additional **2 measures were contextual** and therefore did not have set targets.
- **1** measure showed a decline in performance when compared to the previous year, with the other measure having no historic data to compare against.
- **1 projects/actions** has been completed, with all other project/actions progressing as expected this quarter, with further details provided within this report.

Priority 4: Summary Project Status Split

Priority 4: Qtr.1 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year





High
Is Good

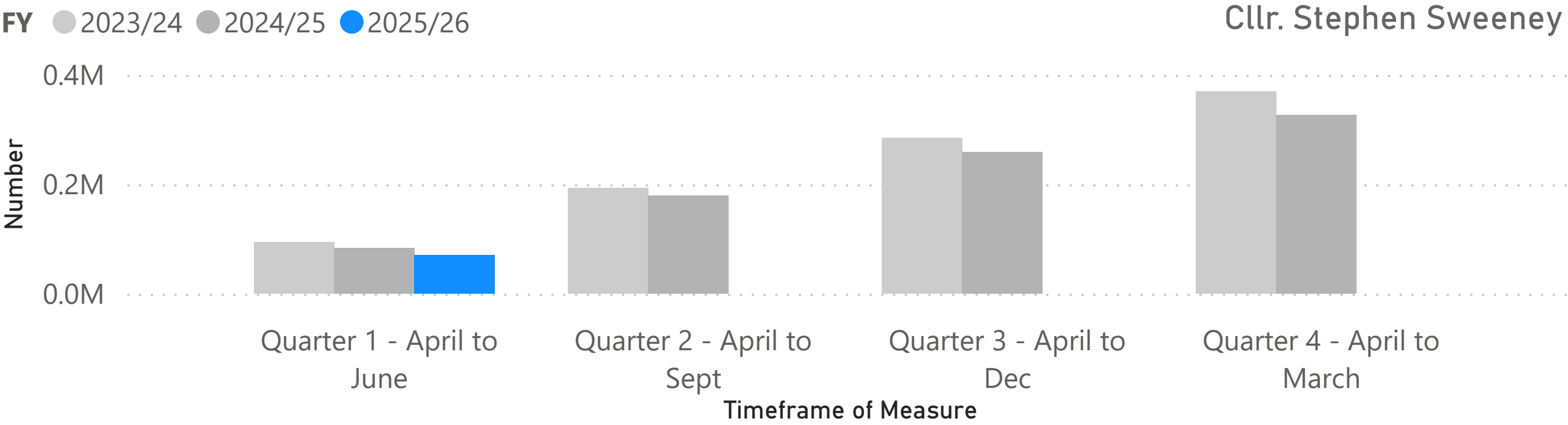
Cumulative
(Per Annum)

Negative
Yearly Trend

ID4.1 - Car parking usage:-Number of tickets purchased

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target



69,964

At the end of Quarter 1, 13,636 fewer tickets had been issued compared to the same period in the previous year. National comparator data is being sought to look at trends which are affecting car parking

High
Is Good

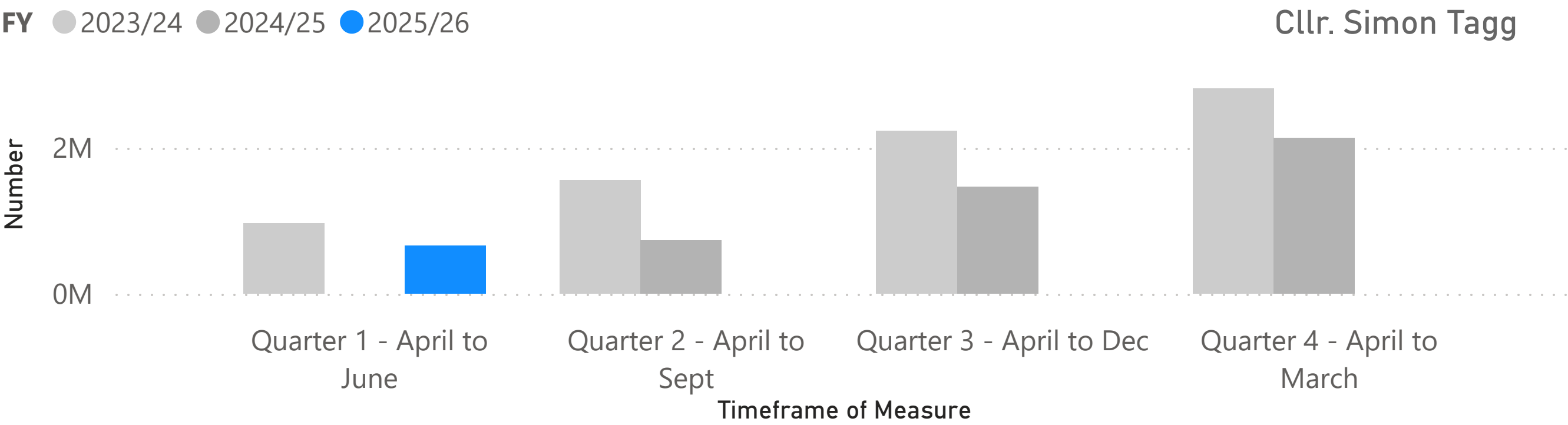
Cumulative
(Per Annum)

N/A
Yearly Trend

ID4.2 - Town Centre Footfall - Newcastle

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target



658,293

Town centre footfall showed a steady upward trend throughout Quarter 1, reflecting increased visitor activity month by month. There is no historic data available for comparison of the quarter due to limited data supplied from the previous financial year.

High
Is Good

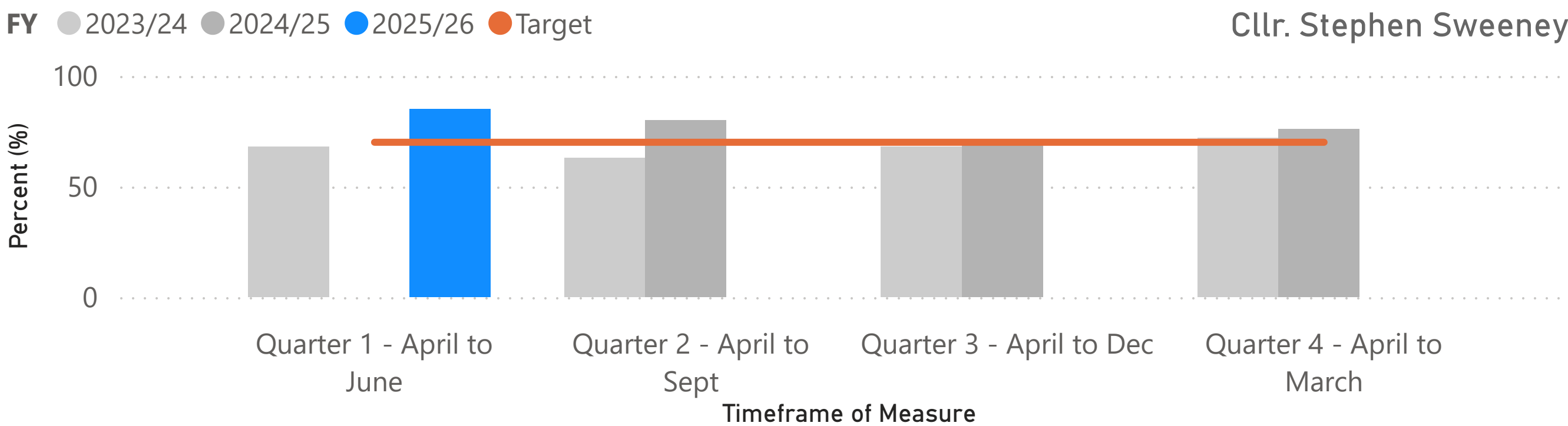
Cumulative
(Per Annum)

N/A
Yearly Trend

ID4.3 - Average stall occupancy rate for markets - Overall

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target



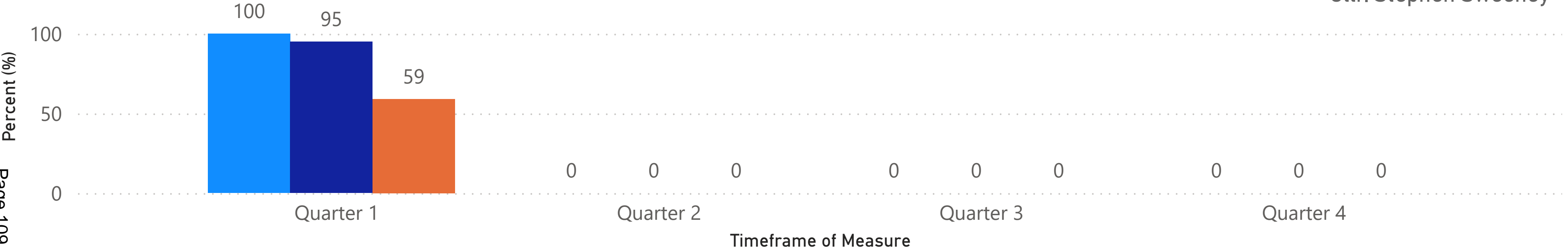
85.00✓

Target:
70.00

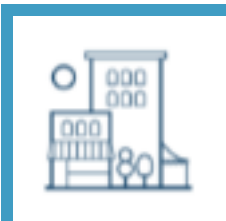
Seasonal fluctuations at the outdoor market follow national trends and warmer weather improves occupancy of the stalls. This is evidenced by the increase in the number of outdoor events held currently. The number of events booked in for the remainder of the year are at levels similar to 2024. NOTE: Monday continues to be a rent free day with no officer on duty.

ID4.3a, 4.3b and 4.3c- Average stall occupancy rate for Specific Markets

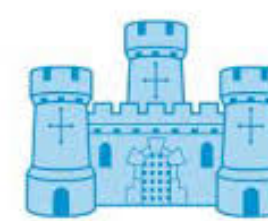
● 1. Specialist event markets - Average stall occupancy rate for markets ● 2. Antique Forum Group Licensed Market - Average st... ● 3. General market - Average stall occu... Cllr. Stephen Sweeney



Increasing the number of people living, working and using Newcastle town Centre



Priority 4: Town Centres for All



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BOROUGH COUNCIL

Project Status Split for Priority 4.

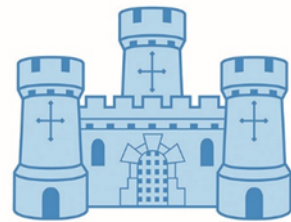
Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

4

Project/Action is Completed

1

Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Planning	Redeveloping Midway car park to provide aspirational town centre residential accommodation	Increasing the number of people living, working and using Newcastle town centre	✓ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Capital and Centric have continued to deliver against the pre-development agreements with planning permission for the site now given. Legal agreements are being drafted to award the construction contracts for the main works and discussions are ongoing with Homes England for grant monies to contribute to the scheme costs.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Neighbourhoods 2. Commercial Delivery	Developing a Town Centre Strategy for Kidsgrove	Encourage visitors and support local businesses in Kidsgrove	★ Project/Action is Completed	Project/Action has been completed.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Redevelopment of Ryecroft Site	Continuing to work with key partners to deliver the redevelopment of opportunities across the borough	✓ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Plans continue for the Ryecroft redevelopment with Capital and Centric securing planning permission. Partners continue to deliver against the pre-development agreement. Hoardings will change on the site in the next quarter. Legal agreements are being drafted to award the construction contracts for the main works and discussions are ongoing with Homes England for grant monies to contribute to the scheme costs.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Redevelopment of York Place	Continuing to work with key partners to deliver the redevelopment of opportunities across the borough	✓ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Capital and Centric have continued to deliver against the pre-development agreements with planning permission for the site now given. Legal agreements are being drafted to award the construction contracts for the main works and discussions are ongoing with Homes England for grant monies to contribute to the scheme costs.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Neighbourhoods	Further enhance the historic market and public realm and boost our signature specialist market programme	Further enhance the historic market and public realm and boost our signature specialist market programme	✓ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The remaining work to improve the public realm is scheduled for completion in summer 2025. Makers Market relaunched in May 2025 and a programme of specialist markets is in place for 2025.



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Cabinet Forward Plan: Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council

Notice of Key Decisions to be taken under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings & Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 between 1 September 2025 and 31 December 2025

This plan gives notice of decisions that [Cabinet](#) is expecting to take over the next few months. It also gives, except in cases of urgency, at least 28 days notice of all “Key Decisions” that will be taken “Key Decisions” are decisions about “executive” functions that will:-

- A) result in the Council incurring expenditure or making savings of an amount which is significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or the function to which the decision relates. (NB: The financial threshold above which expenditure or savings become significant has been set by the Council at £100,000 Revenue and £250,000 Capital Expenditure); and/or
- B) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough.

We have to take some Cabinet decisions in private because they deal with confidential or “exempt” information. That is information described in one or more of the following categories set out in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals an authority proposes;

- a. to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - b. to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of a crime

If we intend to take a decision in private, we will tell you why in the plan below. If you disagree with our reasons, you can tell us why using the contact details below. We will respond to you directly and will publish our response in the meeting agenda. If we have published the meeting agenda before we can respond, we will respond verbally at the meeting and record the response in the minutes.

You can find more information about Cabinet, Cabinet Members and their portfolios, agendas, reports and minutes [here](#).

More information on Cabinet procedures, executive functions, Key Decisions, urgent decisions and access to information is available in our [Constitution](#).

For all enquiries, please contact Democratic Services, Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 1BL.
Telephone – 01782 742222 / Email – DemocraticServices@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	Key Decision
Quarter 1 Finance and Performance Report 2025-26	To consider a report on the Quarter 1 Finance and Performance, 2025-26	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth, Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 2 September 2025	Audit and Standards, Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	No
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27	To consider a report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 2 September 2025	Finance, Assets and Performance, Audit and Standards	All Wards	N/A	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
Annual Report	To consider the Annual Report	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 2 September 2025	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	No
Kidsgrove Town Board Regeneration Update and Award of Contracts	To consider a report on the Kidsgrove Town Board Regeneration Update and Award of Contracts	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth, Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 2 September 2025	Economy and Place	Kidsgrove and Ravenscliffe	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Yes
Walleys Quarry Odour update	To consider a report on the Walleys Quarry odour update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 2 September 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Civica Financials Contract Renewal	To consider a report on the Civica Financials Contract Renewal	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 2 September 2025	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Local Plan Update	To consider a report on the Local Plan Update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Strategic Planning	Cabinet 2 September 2025	Economy and Place	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Walleys Quarry	To consider a report	Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet 14	Health, Wellbeing	All Wards	N/A	No

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
Odour Update	on the Walleys Quarry Odour Update	Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	October 2025	and Environment			
Shared Prosperity Fund - Phase Two 2025/26	To consider a report on the Shared Prosperity Fund - Phase Two 2025/26	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 14 October 2025	Economy and Place	All Wards	N/A	No
Lyme Park Delivery	To consider a report on the Lyme Park Delivery	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	Cabinet 14 October 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	Town	N/A	Yes
Town Centre Car Park Brown Field Update	To consider a report on a Town Centre Car Park Brown Field Update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 14 October 2025	Finance, Assets and Performance,Economy and Place	Town	N/A	Yes
Traffic Regulation Order 2025	To consider a report on the Traffic regulation Order 2025	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 14 October 2025	Economy and Place	All Wards	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Yes
Newcastle Bus Station Upgrade Works	To consider a report on the Newcastle Bus Station Upgrade	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and	Cabinet 14 October 2025	Finance, Assets and Performance,Econ	Town	N/A	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
	Works	Growth		omy and Place			
Vehicle Fleet and Maintenance Procurement	To consider a report on the Vehicle Fleet and Maintenance Procurement	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	Cabinet 14 October 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment, Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Yes
Renewal of InCab and Back Office Management system for SE Services	To consider a report on the renewal of InCab and Back Office Management system for SE Services	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	Cabinet 14 October 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment, Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Yes
Kidsgrove Train Station Update	To consider an update report on Kidsgrove Train Station	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 14 October 2025	Finance, Assets and Performance, Economy and Place	Kidsgrove and Ravenscliffe	N/A	Yes
Newcastle-under-Lyme BID Renewal 2026-2031 Council Votes	To consider a report on the Newcastle-under-Lyme BID Renewal 2026-2031 Council Votes in Ballot	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 14 October 2025	Economy and Place	All Wards	N/A	No

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
in Ballot							
Fields in Trust - Update on Village Green Status	To consider a report on Fields in Trust - Update on Village Green Status	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	Cabinet 14 October 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Walleys Quarry Odour Update	To consider a report on odour issues at Walleys Quarry	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 4 November 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Local Government Reorganisation and English Devolution update	To consider a report on the Local Government Reorganisation and English Devolution update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 4 November 2025	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Bradwell Dingle Recreational Facilities	To consider a report on the Bradwell Dingle Recreational Facilities	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	Cabinet 4 November 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	Bradwell	N/A	Yes
Housing and Homelessness Strategy	To consider a report on the Housing and Homelessness Strategy	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Community Safety and Wellbeing	Cabinet 4 November 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Quarter Two Finance and	To consider a report on Quarter Two	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One	Cabinet 2 December	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	No

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
Performance Report 2025/26	Finance and Performance Report 2025/26	Council, People and Partnerships	2025				
Walleys Quarry Odour Update	To consider a report on the Walleys Quarry Odour issues	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 2 December 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
First Draft Savings Proposals 2026/27	To consider a report on the First Draft Savings Proposals 2026/27	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 2 December 2025	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	No
Newcastle Town Deal Update	To consider a report on the Newcastle Town Deal Update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 2 December 2025	Economy and Place	Town	N/A	Yes

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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