

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
CABINET

Date 5 June 2019

REPORT TITLE: FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT TO
END OF QUARTER FOUR (January-March) 2018-19

Submitted by: Executive Management Team

Portfolio: Corporate & Service Improvement, People & Partnerships,
Finance & Efficiency

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To provide Cabinet with the Financial and Performance Review report with the Financial and Performance Review report – fourth quarter 2018/19.

Recommendations

- (a) That Members note the contents of the attached report and agree to the recommendation that the Council continues to monitor performance alongside the latest financial information for the same period.
- (b) That Members support the future development of the Financial & Performance report to reflect the vision and priorities of the Council Plan 2018-2022.

Reasons

The Financial and Performance Management monitoring reports provide information on a quarterly basis regarding the performance of individual council services, 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 fourth quarter of 2018/19 by presenting performance data set within a financial context.
- 1.2 This report provides broad financial information (Appendix A) and also details performance (Appendix B) for the fourth quarter of 2018/19.
- 1.3 A summary of the overall performance picture is presented in section 3 of this report and members will note that performance is generally progressing well.

2. 2018/19 Revenue and Capital Budget Position

- 2.1 The Council approved a general fund revenue budget of £13,335,420 on 21 February 2018. Further financial information is provided in Appendix A.

3 Performance

- 3.1 The latest performance information for quarter four has been analysed.

- 3.2 All indicators monitored for this period are listed in the table found in Appendix B.
- 3.3 Any indicators failing to meet the set targets include a comment explaining why the indicator has not performed well, and what steps are being taken to ensure improvement in the future.
- 3.4 The layout for Appendix B changed in early 2018.
- 3.5 For this report a total of 21 indicators were monitored, and the proportion of indicators which have met their target or are within tolerance levels during this period stands at 67%.
- 3.6 There are 7 indicators off target this quarter, and officers consider that the performance against these indicators does not give rise to serious cause for concern at present (see commentary provided at Appendix B). The management of each of the service areas concerned continue to monitor and take steps to deal with under achievement of targets where possible and/or appropriate.

Further quarterly updates will be provided for Members in future reports.

- 3.7 Positive performance can be seen in a range of services and members will note that some services are affected by both seasonal and external factors. It should also be noted for consideration that some indicators have stretched targets set and local targets that are higher than the national ones.

4. Development of the Financial and Performance Report

- 4.1 The performance section –Appendix B was updated in quarter two and the indicators align to the new vision and priorities of the new Council Plan 2018-2022.
- 4.2 The performance measures are currently being reviewed to reflect the priorities in the new Council Plan.
- 4.3 During the next months, the format and content of the report will be reviewed and developed in order to reflect the progress of the planned aims of the Council Plan 2018-2022.
- 4.4 Additional performance information will be provided, 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 economy.

5. Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities

- 5.1 All indicators link to corporate priorities set out in the Council Plan and/or Service Plans.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 The Council has a duty to set targets for performance of a range of functions and needs to monitor these closely.

7. Equality Impact Implications

- 7.1 There are no differential equality issues arising directly from this monitoring report.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 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.

9. Major Risks

- 9.1 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. The situation will be monitored through the normal budget monitoring procedures.
- 9.2 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 monthly basis together with quarterly reports to Cabinet.
- 9.3 The above represents a high level view of risk. There are detailed risk registers available if members wish to see them.

10. List of Appendices

Financial information (Appendix A), and performance information (Appendix B).

11. Background Papers

Working papers held by officers responsible for calculating indicators.

12. Management sign off

Each of the designated boxes need to be signed off and dated before going to Executive Director/Corporate Service Manager for sign off.