

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S  
REPORT TO FINANCE, ASSETS AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**30 June 2022**

**Report Title:** Financial and Performance Review Report – Fourth quarter (Jan-Mar) 2021-22.

**Submitted by:** Executive Management Team

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

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Purpose of the Report**

To provide the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee with the Financial and Performance Review report for the fourth quarter of 2021-22.

**Recommendation**

**That :- the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee**

- 1) note the content of the attached report and Appendices A and B**
- 2) continue to monitor and challenge the Council's performance alongside its financial performance for the same period.**

**Reasons**

So that the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee are fully apprised of 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 fourth quarter 2021/22 by presenting performance data and progress summary set within a financial context. The report provides broad financial information (Appendix A) and also details service performance (Appendix B) for the fourth quarter 2021/22.
- 1.2 This report covers the period, when a number of customer facing services were required to close, or where the customer base simply stopped using the service due to the Covid 19 situation. Despite these unprecedented circumstances, as the summary of the overall performance picture is presented in section 4 of this report reflects, performance has generally held up well.

**2021-22 Revenue and Capital Budget Position**

- 1.3 The Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget of £14.960 million on 24 February 2021. Further financial information is provided in Appendix A.

## **Performance**

- 1.4 The performance section –Appendix B was reviewed and the indicators continue to reflect the priorities in the Council Plan. In addition to reporting on key performance indicators, the report includes a progress summary for each priority, detailing the progress with the delivery of planned activities.
- 1.5 Additional performance information is 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.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 In Quarter 2, a new symbol was introduced, a boxed tick used in Appendix B and detailed in the key at the end. This is used for indicators where a target is not set but performance is monitored quarterly.
- 1.8 The latest performance information for quarter four has been analysed and all indicators monitored for this period are listed in the table found in Appendix B.
- 1.9 For this report a total of 21 indicators were monitored, and the proportion of indicators which have met their target (where set) or are within tolerance levels during this period stands at 81%.

## **2. Issues**

- 2.1 There are 4 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 commentaries provided in 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, taking into account the limitations presented by the Covid19 situation.
- 2.2 Progress on delivery of planned activities is summarised for each priority and no concerns are highlighted.

## **3. Proposal**

- 3.1 That Members 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.

## **4. Reasons for Proposed Solution**

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

5. **Options Considered**

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

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 There are no legal or statutory implications arising directly from this report.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

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

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 Quarter four variances are detailed in appendix A. 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 impact of Covid 19 is still apparent in the reporting of this quarter, impacting on many areas and the situation will continue to be monitored through the normal budget monitoring procedure.

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.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change Implications**



11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This is not a Key Decision

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 N/A

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Financial information (Appendix A), and Performance (Appendix B).

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 Working papers held by officers responsible for calculating indicators.