

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S  
REPORT TO**

**Cabinet**  
**6<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Report Title:** Council Plan 2022-26

**Submitted by:** Chief Executive

**Portfolios:** One Council, People and Partnerships

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Purpose of the Report**

To enable Cabinet to agree the Council Plan 2022-2026.

**Recommendation**

That Cabinet:

- approve the Council Plan 2022-26
- delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, authority to make any necessary refinements to the draft plan prior to publishing on the Council's website
- forward the Council Plan 2022-26 to Full Council

**Reasons**

The Council Plan sets out the Council's medium terms priorities and objectives. The current plan covers the period 2018-22 and, following the May election it is timely to refresh the plan to reflect the political priorities of the Council's administration. This report facilitates the adoption of a Council Plan covering the period 2022-2026.

1. **Background**

1.1 In September 2018 Cabinet adopted the Council Plan 2018-22, setting the priorities for the Council, and detailing a number of specific actions to be taken to deliver those priorities. The Council plan informs the Medium Term Financial Plan, Service Plans and the work programme of every Council officer. In addition, it provides the source document against which the Council has publicly reports its performance each quarter.

1.2 With the current plan expiring in 2022, and with the May 2022 elections providing a fresh mandate for the administration, it is timely to prepare and adopt a new Council Plan which reflects the administration's election pledges and policy objectives.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The Council Plan 2022-26, attached at Appendix 1 to this report builds on the previous plan. It reviews progress against the 2018-22 Plan, refreshes the Council's priorities, and sets an ambitious programme of work for the next three and a half years.
- 2.2 Since 2018 the Council has delivered across the major policy objectives set in 2018. These are detailed in the quarterly reports submitted to Cabinet and to Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee each quarter, and summarised in attached plan. These achievements range from the successful roll out of a new recycling service and the re-opening of Kidsgrove Sports Centre following a full refurbishment, to re-energising Newcastle's historic market and acting to secure a step change in the Council's contribution to Net Zero.
- 2.3 The priorities for 2022-26 reflect the progress made with the Once Council programme, the refreshed commitment to environmental sustainability, and the opportunities afforded by the Government's Levelling Up agenda. The proposed priorities are:
  - One Council Delivering for Local People
  - A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough
  - Healthy, Active, and Safe Communities
  - Town Centres for All
- 2.4 The Plan sets out the key delivery commitments which sit under each priority, together with the performance indicators which will be monitored through the quarterly performance reports.
- 2.5 Once adopted, work will be undertaken to embed hyperlinks in the document to enable speedy access to the underpinning action plans (eg the Future High Streets Programme, or the Sustainable Environment Strategy). Where necessary, such plans will be updated to ensure alignment to the time horizon of the Council Plan. In addition, a summary "Plan on a Page" will be prepared and published.
- 2.6 Given the strategic nature of the Plan, it is appropriate that Cabinet refer it to Council for discussion.

### 3. **Proposal**

That Cabinet:-

- approve the Council Plan 2022-26
- delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, authority to make any necessary refinements to the draft plan prior to publishing on the Council's website
- forward the Council Plan 2022-26 to Full Council

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

- 4.1 Adopting a Council Plan for the period up to 2026 will ensure that the Council's resources are targeted on the clear priorities set by the administration.

### 5. **Options Considered**

5.1 No other options have been considered as it is essential that the Council has a current Council Plan.

## 6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 There are no legal issues directly arising from this report

## 7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 The Council Plan seeks to ensure that opportunities for social and economic benefit are available to all residents in the borough.

## 8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The Council Plan will inform the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

## 9. **Major Risks**

9.2 The Council plan identifies the key priorities, and associated actions, to be delivered by the Council over the next three and a half years. Where appropriate, major projects will have their own risk registers through which major risks are identified and managed.

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



## 11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This is a key decision

## 12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 N/A

## 13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Council Plan 2022-26

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 None.