

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S
REPORT TO**

Finance Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee
08 December 2022

Report Title: Financial and Performance Review report – Second quarter (July-September) 2022-23.

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 Second quarter of 2022-23.

Recommendation

That Members note

1. 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.

Reasons

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 Second quarter 2022/23 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 second quarter 2022/22.

1.2 This report includes, as a comparison, 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 seen a lot of positive movement in recovery from Covid-19 pandemic.

2022-23 Revenue and Capital Budget Position

1.3 The Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget of £15,268,760 million on 23 February 2022. 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 The latest performance information for quarter one has been analysed and all indicators monitored for this period are listed in the table found in Appendix B.
- 1.8 For this report a total of 34 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 85%.
- 1.9 The detail that has been reported for Quarter 2 in Appendix B is against the old Council Plan priorities 2018 – 2022. The new Council Plan Priorities 2022 – 2026 will be used from Quarter 3 onwards.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 There are 5 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 The Council has a duty to set targets for performance of a range of functions and needs to monitor these closely.

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. There are no differential equality issues arising directly from this 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 impact of Covid 19 is still apparent in the reporting of this quarter, despite seeing improvements, 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 Included on the Forward Plan

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.