

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Corporate Leadership Team's
Report to Full Council**

24 January 2024

Report Title: Annual Report 2022-2023

Submitted by: Corporate Leadership Team

Portfolios: One Council, People & Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	Key Decision NO
<p>To provide Full Council with assurance of progress and the opportunity to consider the Council's Annual Report for 2022-2023, which provides a high-level summary of the work and outcomes achieved during the first 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>	
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Receive and consider the Council's Annual Report for 2022-2023 <input type="checkbox"/> Recognise the achievements of the Council over the reporting period <input type="checkbox"/> Note the publication date of the Annual Report going forward, which will be September each year 	
<p><u>Reasons</u></p> <p>The Annual Report is intended to support Council and stakeholders to understand, assess and explore the progress made by NULBC against our own priorities and plan and how this impacts on the Borough. This core document 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 The Council Plan 2022-2026 sets out an ambitious vision for the Borough of "Good local services, a prosperous borough, and safe and welcoming places for all" and includes core themes, goals and actions identified to achieve this. In order to ensure that the priorities are on track for delivery, we have implemented a number of governance and assurance processes and practices which serve to ensure alignment of efforts and outcomes against this plan. These processes include the revised performance framework and model, the creation of priority delivery plans and enhanced use of research tools to understand our borough and its challenges to a greater extent than ever before. These elements are ongoing and can be reviewed throughout the year with quarterly performance reports received by committees as a recurring measure.

- 1.2 This Annual Report provides an opportunity to review the progress in summary over the reporting period 2022-2023; and to note milestones of achievements made against the Council's stated objectives. It also provides an opportunity to understand and recognise what remains to progress and consider how this may be achieved.

2. **Issues**

2.1 The Annual Report includes the following sections, setting out work undertaken and performance outcomes by theme. :

- 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

2.2 The following outcomes achieved within the period are of note:

- Positive report from LGA Corporate Peer Challenge highlighting sound finances sector leading partnerships
- Award of £4.6m in UKSPF monies for use in improvements to our town centres
- 80% of performance targets met
- Creation of the Neighbourhood Delivery Team
- Gold Award in Britain in Bloom
- Achievement of 50% reduction in CO2 emissions since 2009
- Reduction in rough sleepers

2.3 The Report acknowledges the funding gap outlined within the 5-year Medium Term Financial Strategy and the plans to address.

2.4 The Annual Report is 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.

2.5 From 2024 onwards the Annual Report will be brought to Cabinet in September of each year, now that the processes and format for publication have been developed and agreed.

3. **Recommendation**

3.1 That Full Council :

- Receive and consider the Council's Annual Report for 2022-2023
- Recognise the achievements of the Council over the reporting period
- Note the publication date of the Annual Report going forward, which will be September each year

4. **Reasons**

4.1 In line with good governance and assurance, to acknowledge openness of progress, priorities and future planning.

5. **Options Considered**

6. 5.1 N/A

Legal and Statutory Implications

7. 6.1 N/A

Equality Impact Assessment


8. 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.

Financial and Resource Implications

9. 8.1 N/A

Major Risks & Mitigation

9.1 N/A

10.	<u>UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change Implications</u>
	
11.	<u>Key Decision Information</u>
	11.1 This is not a key decision.
12.	<u>Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions</u>
	12.1 None
13.	<u>List of Appendices</u>
	13.1 Annual Report 2022-2023 (Appendix 1): click the link below https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/downloads/download/708/annual-report-2022-to-2023
14.	<u>Background Papers</u>
	11.1 Working papers held by the Strategic Hub Team.

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