

# **NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**



## **Cabinet's Report to Council**

**24 September 2025**

**Report Title:** Annual Report 2024-2025

**Submitted by:** Cabinet

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

**Ward(s) affected:** All

| <b><u>Purpose of the Report</u></b>  | <b><u>Key Decision</u></b> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| To provide Council with the opportunity to consider the Council's Annual Report for 2024-2025, which provides a high-level summary of the progress made during the penultimate 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. |                            |                              |  |
| <b><u>Recommendation</u></b>   |                            |                              |  |
| <b>That Council:</b>   |                            |                              |  |
| 1. <b>Receives and consider the Council's Annual Report for 2024-2025</b>  |                            |                              |  |
| <b><u>Reasons</u></b>  |                            |                              |  |
| The publication of an Annual Report is accepted good practice and 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.  |                            |                              |  |

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 As part of the Council's focus on performance management this Annual Report provides an opportunity to review the progress and achievements made against the Council's stated objectives and to use this intelligence to understand what still needs to be done and what new challenges lie ahead. The Annual Report does this by including the following sections:
- 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

**1.2** In summary, the Annual Report provides assurance as to the progress made during the third year of the 2022-2026 Council Plan with 65% of all targets met in 2024-2025 and sound progress on our priority projects. The Report acknowledges the funding gap outlined within the 5-year Medium Term Financial Strategy and the plans to address this.

**1.3** The Annual Report will be 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. Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Receives and consider the Council's new Annual Report for 2024-2025.

## **3. Reasons**

**3.1** The publication of an Annual Report is accepted good practice and 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.

## **4. Options Considered**

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

## **5. Legal and Statutory Implications**

**5.1** The Council has a Best Value duty to provide value for money services.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

**6.1** There are no differential equality issues arising directly from this report

## **7. Financial and Resource Implications**

**7.1** None from this report.

## **8. Major Risks & Mitigation**

**8.1** No new major risks have been identified through the process of developing the Annual Report.

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



## 10. One Council

Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council ☒

*We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.*

One Digital Council ☒

*We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.*

One Sustainable Council ☒

*We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.*

10.1 The annual report sets out progress against One Council delivery.

## 11. Key Decision Information

11.1 This is not a key decision.

## 12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

12.1 Not relevant

## 13. List of Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1 - Annual Report 2024-2025

## 14. Background Papers

14.1 Working papers held by Strategic Hub Team.