

**Key Messages from the Meeting of Council
on 14 October 2024**

Strategic Items

NU Shape	Council received an update on progress with the 'Shaping Newcastle to 2030' (NUShape) programme. Council received a University-level Strategic Delivery Plan and a framework for the NUShape Delivery Phase to be initiated from academic session 2024/25. Clear academic strategic priorities, against which decisions on resource allocation could be made, had been categorised as 'Grow', 'Develop', 'Sustain' and 'Energise'. Discussion of the proposals focussed on the intended financial benefit, connectivity with the current budget situation, and the implications for infrastructure.
University Finances	Council received an update on the financial impact upon the University of the lower-than-expected international student recruitment intake, the immediate mitigating actions taken in response and consideration of the longer-term implications. Council endorsed the short-term measures taken by the University and agreed that it was crucial to protect the student experience while continuing to invest in the University's future and build financial reserves to buffer against next year's challenges. Council agreed with the University's recommendation to implement the backdated national pay award (as advised by UCEA).
Student Surveys	Council received updates on the University's performance in the 2024 National Student Survey and Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey, and progress towards the next Teaching Excellence Framework exercise.

Approvals

Report from Nominations Committee	Council approved the appointment of the following individuals as members of Council, with effect from 1 August 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arun Harish (Chief Strategy Officer, CPI) ▪ Adam Serfontein (Group Managing Director, Hanro Group) Council also approved recommendations from Nominations Committee relating to the appointment and re-appointment of individuals as members of University committees.
Senior Appointments	Council approved recommendations from the Vice-Chancellor relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The appointment of a new Pro-Vice-Chancellor Global ▪ The establishment of a Dean of Students ▪ The appointment of a new Dean of Culture and Creative Arts
Retirement Benefits Plan	Council approved the appointment of Daniel Spurr (Head of Accounting and Control) as one of the three University-nominated Trustees of the RBP Pensions Scheme.

Reports

Vice-Chancellor's Business	Council received updates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Academic Board ▪ Universities UK Blueprint for Change ▪ Universities for North East England ▪ OfS Condition of Registration E6: Harassment and Sexual Misconduct ▪ Faraday Institution Conference ▪ Access and Participation Plan ▪ Henderson Old Hall ▪ Colleague Success
Risk Management	Council confirmed it had received sufficient assurance that risks relating to strategic objectives and enablers were being managed appropriately.
Additional reports considered by Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee ▪ Finance Committee ▪ University/Students' Union Partnership Committee ▪ Summary Report from Senate: 18 September 2024