

## Your Cabinet 2023/24

### New structure from May 2023

New Cabinet Portfolios are in place to deliver for Newcastle's citizens and communities. Each portfolio joins up political leadership for effective and inclusive service delivery, and every Cabinet member is committed to working closely with you to meet city challenges and improve residents' wellbeing.



## 1. What is Cabinet and how does it work?

Newcastle City Council is led by Councillors. This means that the overall strategic priorities of the council are determined by elected politicians who are accountable to city residents.

### Full Council

Meetings of all 78 elected Councillors (Full Council) take the biggest decisions such as setting the overall policy framework and agreeing the Council's budget. Councillors who belong to the political party which has the most seats form the ruling group. Full Council then elects the leader of that ruling group to be Leader of Council. The Leader then appoints a Cabinet.

### Political Balance of the Council

The Council is currently made up of 48 Labour, 23 Liberal Democrat, 3 Independent and 4 Newcastle Independents councillors. The Leader and Cabinet are therefore all Labour (or Labour and Co-Operative) councillors.

## **Leader and Cabinet**

Cabinet takes the most significant decisions within the Council, through Cabinet meetings or the individual decision-making process. The Leader and Cabinet Members also ensure that the Council is working towards the priorities set by Cabinet.

## **Officers**

The staff of the Council are employed to carry out the day-to-day work of the Council and implement the policies of Cabinet and the budget set by Full Council.

## **The role of Cabinet**

Cabinet members are elected representatives given specific responsibilities for the work of the Council. Cabinet Members provide overall direction and set the policy framework for services to work within. They are ultimately responsible for the decisions the Council makes.

Cabinet Members make collective decisions at monthly formal Cabinet meetings. They also have delegated powers to make specific decisions for areas of activity in their individual portfolios. This helps to speed up decision-making.

Many members of the Cabinet also work elsewhere. This brings alternative perspectives and experience, and means officers must use Cabinet Members' time effectively.

**Cabinet Members are keen to visit services and speak to staff and service users. If you'd like your Cabinet Member to visit your service, please get in touch with the Leader's Office on ext. 25151.** For more information see <https://newcastle.gov.uk/local-government/your-elected-representatives/leader-and-cabinet>

## 2. Cabinet Members

Below is information on Cabinet Members and their portfolios. For a detailed breakdown of portfolio responsibilities, see section 3 of this document.

### Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Kemp



Nick provides political leadership in the coordination of Council policies, strategies and service delivery. He also provides democratic leadership to residents and stakeholders, ensuring a collaborative approach to the development and delivery of services that meet people's needs and aspirations.

Nick ensures that the Council's approach to inclusive economic development and regeneration in the city is effective, integrated and enabling. He also provides political leadership in the development of local, sub-regional and regional strategy and partnerships, and promotes and enhances Newcastle's reputation at national, European and international levels.

### Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for a Healthy Caring City, Cllr Karen Kilgour



Karen supports and deputises for the Leader where needed. She works with the Leader to provide political and strategic leadership across all areas of Council delivery.

Karen ensures that the political governance and accountability of the Council are clear and effective, overseeing key planning and risk management processes.

As Cabinet member for a Healthy, Caring City, Karen is responsible for ensuring safe, effective adult social care and public health services. Her strategic focus is to reduce health inequalities so that residents enjoy longer, healthier lives and are able to live as independently as possible for as long as possible.

### Resources and Cabinet Secretary, Cllr Paul Frew



Paul oversees the Council's strategic financial and performance management. This includes setting a balanced budget and monitoring delivery of the capital investment programme. Paul is also responsible for driving social value through the Council's commissioning and procurement strategies, overseeing the Council's transformation programme and Corporate Plan, and for ensuring an effective and supported workforce. Paul manages Cabinet's forward plan.

### Cabinet Member for a Dynamic City, and Lead Member for Equalities and Diversity, Cllr Irim Ali



Irim provides political leadership for housing and planning strategies, ensuring that the city prospers through innovative physical and economic regeneration. She is responsible for the Council's approach to tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in Newcastle and overseeing advice and support for people facing homelessness.

Irim leads the Council's approach to cooperative development in delivery of housing and planning functions, and in opportunities for expanding social housing across the city. She also leads the Council's approach to embedding equality and diversity in Council activity.

### **Cabinet Member for a Growing City, Cllr Lesley Storey**



Lesley is responsible for delivering the Council's commitment to give children and young people the best start in life. She has the statutory role of lead member for children's services, including the Council's duties in relation to looked after children. She leads on the Council's priorities for children and young people, including tackling child poverty, driving educational achievement and attainment, and ensuring that young people are at the heart of decision making on Council services.

### **Cabinet Member for a Connected, Clean City, Cllr Jane Byrne**



Jane leads the Council's approach to environment and transport priorities, including low carbon plans and improving connectivity for living, working and visiting the city. She ensures that the Council's environment and transport agenda is integrated and effective, through proactive partnerships and policy oversight of its regulatory functions for environment, transport, infrastructure, public protection and place.

Jane leads the Council's work with residents and communities to promote sustainability, cleaner air and cleaner and safer streets. She is responsible for improving all aspects of the local environment to create cleaner and greener neighbourhoods.

### **Cabinet Member for a Resilient City, Cllr Paula Maines**



Paula leads the Council's approach to working with local communities across the city, ensuring that cultural, sporting and leisure opportunities are integrated and accessible to all. She is responsible for ensuring that resident engagement is proactive and enabling, supports an inclusive economy and fulfils the Council's statutory requirements.

Paula provides political leadership for the Council's community partnerships and voluntary and community sector liaison, and for ensuring that Newcastle remains a safe, resilient and welcoming city for all.

### **Cabinet Member for a Thriving City, Cllr Alex Hay**



Alex provides political leadership for the Council's approach to inclusive economic development, overseeing the implementation of economic strategy with city stakeholders, ensuring that real benefits are delivered for all residents.

Alex drives the Council's strategies for apprenticeships, adult education, skills and job creation. He is responsible for ensuring that culture is embedded at the heart of the city's approach to inclusive economic development.

Alex leads on neighbourhood renewal and works closely with the Cabinet member for a Connected, Clean City on transport matters.

### 3. Cabinet Responsibilities

Cabinet Member	Council Function Lead
<b>Leader</b> Cllr Nick Kemp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• External Relationships</li> <li>• Combined Authority</li> <li>• Governance and Devolution</li> <li>• International Strategy</li> <li>• Overall leadership of the Council</li> <li>• Oversight of Major Regeneration Projects</li> <li>• Promotion of the City, locally, nationally, and internationally</li> <li>• Strategic policy coordination</li> <li>• Capital projects</li> <li>• Local Plan</li> <li>• Leading inclusive economic strategy</li> <li>• City Centre Transformation</li> </ul>
<b>Deputy Leader and Healthy, Caring City</b> Cllr Karen Kilgour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political governance and organisational accountability: Council, Cabinet and Committee forward planning</li> <li>• Democratic and Members' Services</li> <li>• Elections and Electoral registration</li> <li>• Legal services and The Newcastle Charter</li> <li>• Adult Social Care: Adults with long term social care needs. In house and commissioned care services. Learning disabilities. Autism and mental health. Prevention. Specialist services. Business continuity and risk. Social care finance. Safeguarding. Dementia Friendly City. Support to unpaid carers to improve their health, wellbeing &amp; quality of life</li> <li>• Health and Social Care integration: Collaborative Newcastle. Adult Social Care financial viability. Joint funding with Health (Better Care Fund). Intermediate Care. Integrated Care System (ICS)</li> <li>• Housing with specialised support</li> <li>• Political leadership in relation to legislation and guidance</li> <li>• Public Health: Delivery of the statutory public health outcomes framework. Preventative health. Embedded public health across Council activity. Promotion of healthy neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Leading anti-poverty strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Resources and Cabinet Secretary</b> Cllr Paul Frew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial strategy, including budget setting, budget monitoring, financial policy and performance</li> <li>• Revenue collection, business rates, council tax, council tax support and benefits</li> <li>• Social Value through commissioning and procurement</li> <li>• The Council's pension fund</li> <li>• Council-wide performance management</li> <li>• Workforce matters including human resources and trade union relations</li> <li>• Digital transformation, including customer services</li> <li>• Oversight of the Council's move to being a Real Living Wage Employer</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Information Governance and Cyber Security</li> <li>• Corporate Plan</li> <li>• Capital Programme</li> <li>• Property portfolio</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political oversight of transformation programme</li> <li>• Management of cabinet forward plan</li> </ul>
<b>Dynamic City and Lead Member for Equalities and Diversity</b> Cllr Irim Ali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversight of city housing strategy</li> <li>• Capital investment programme in YHN/Council stock</li> <li>• Housing Revenue Account</li> <li>• Planning</li> <li>• Tackling homelessness and rough sleeping, advice and support for people facing homelessness</li> <li>• Private sector housing</li> <li>• Working with housing associations</li> <li>• Improved advice and support for people living in the private rented sector</li> <li>• Registered Social Landlords and house of multiple occupation (HMO) licencing</li> <li>• Licencing and regulatory issues (not including taxis). Trading standards. Public protection and enforcement</li> <li>• Equalities and diversity</li> </ul>
<b>Growing City</b> Cllr Lesley Storey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corporate parenting</li> <li>- Child protection and protecting children from exploitation</li> <li>- Special education needs and disabilities (SEND) services</li> <li>- Tackling child poverty</li> <li>- Integrated support for children and families including early years services, nurseries, family centres and Connexions</li> <li>- Youth offending</li> <li>- Commissioning and delivery of youth and play services</li> <li>- Education and schools, including achievement and attainment, sufficiency of places, promotion of inclusion and school improvement (including inspections, behaviour, attendance and enrichment)</li> <li>- Working towards UNICEF Child Friendly City status</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Connected, Clean City</b> Cllr Jane Byrne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic transport planning and infrastructure, local transport schemes and lobbying for improvement of public transport</li> <li>• Tackling air pollution, Clean Air Zone (CAZ)</li> <li>• Council response to climate emergency/Net Zero</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Tree planting and maintenance programme</li> <li>• Increasing recycling rates</li> <li>• Waste, garden waste and street cleaning services</li> <li>• Tackling environmental crime including fly tipping, littering, graffiti and dog fouling</li> <li>• Low traffic neighbourhoods with improved accessibility, signage and street lighting</li> <li>• School Streets</li> <li>• Parking, traffic management and enforcement</li> <li>• Road and footway maintenance through capital investment programme</li> <li>• Utilities and contractor relations</li> </ul>
<b>Resilient City</b> Cllr Paula Maines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban Green/parks, green spaces, allotments</li> <li>• Play areas and leisure facilities</li> <li>• Leisure Centre management</li> <li>• Libraries and customer services</li> <li>• Registrars, cemeteries, and crematorium services</li> <li>• Taxi licencing</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Newcastle Fund</li> <li>• Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Compact and VCS liaison</li> <li>• Crime, community safety and Resilience Planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safe Newcastle Partnership</li> <li>- Tackling antisocial behaviour</li> <li>- Liaison with Northumbria Police</li> <li>- Liaison with other crime and criminal justice partners</li> <li>- Crime and policing panel</li> <li>- CCTV policy</li> <li>- Tackling modern slavery and human trafficking</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Promoting good community relations and combatting hate crimes</li> <li>• Community assets and asset transfers</li> <li>• Neighbourhood devolution and Parish Councils</li> <li>• Ward governance and budget</li> <li>• Refugees and Asylum Seekers</li> <li>• City of Sanctuary</li> <li>• Veterans and the Armed Forces Family/Armed Forces Covenant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Co-operative Council</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Thriving City</b> Cllr Alex Hay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic development</li> <li>• Adult education, skills and apprenticeships</li> <li>• Promoting job creation and quality employment</li> <li>• Business support and relations</li> <li>• Social Finance</li> <li>• Welfare reform</li> <li>• Digital inclusion</li> <li>• City centre regeneration. Business Improvement District</li> <li>• Neighbourhood renewal</li> <li>• Newcastle's Culture Compact</li> <li>• Culture, Heritage and Sport</li> </ul>