

**Key Messages from the Meeting of Council  
on 19 January 2026**

**Strategic Items**

<b>Risk Management</b>	Council confirmed it had received sufficient assurance that risks relating to strategic objectives and enablers were being managed appropriately.
<b>Next Generation Newcastle</b>	Council received an update on the Next Generation Newcastle Programme, including the proposed governance structures and timeline within the context of the 7 defined projects and 17 underlying workstreams. Council had noted the importance of ensuring that all faculties were explicitly referenced across the project and workstreams, and encouraged reflection on whether the programme and projects could deliver more ambitious long-term outcomes. Council endorsed the direction of travel and next steps as outlined in the paper.
<b>Transnational Education Update</b>	Council received an update on the establishment of proposed Joint Education Institutes (JEIs) with two leading Chinese Universities: Southeast University and Central China Normal University. An application would be submitted to the Ministry of Education in summer 2026, with the first student cohort anticipated in September 2027. Council endorsed the proposed direction of travel of the Transnational Education project.
<b>Updated Key Performance Indicators</b>	Council received the finalised set of institutional Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and noted that reports would be submitted to meetings of Executive Board and Council each April and October and would be accompanied by a short update from the relevant KPI owner. Council endorsed the proposed institutional Key Performance Indicators and reporting schedule.

**Approvals**

<b>Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards</b>	Council approved the University’s annual report and received the University’s updated Degree Outcomes Statement.
<b>Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, and Gender Pay Gap</b>	Council approved the annual report and noted that future iterations of the report could usefully include data demonstrating the impact and tangible outputs of ongoing EDI initiatives.

**Reports**

<b>Vice-Chancellor’s Business</b>	<p>Council received updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Castle Leazes</li> <li>▪ Research Excellence Framework 2029</li> <li>▪ Higher Education Policy Institute Report</li> <li>▪ Erasmus Programme</li> <li>▪ Civic 2.0</li> <li>▪ Professor of Civic Engagement</li> <li>▪ Council Election</li> </ul>
<b>Additional reports considered by Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summary of the meeting of Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee on 3 December 2025.</li> <li>▪ Annual Report on Research Integrity</li> </ul>