

**Key Messages from the Meeting of Council  
on 20 April 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>University Values</b>	Council received a refreshed set of University values, which had been developed and refined through a University wide consultation process over a period of several months. The University's values and guiding principles had required a refresh to ensure they could be embedded more completely in decision-making processes and to ensure they could assist in shaping University culture by providing a framework that could be put into everyday practice. Council approved for final development and launch the refreshed set of University values and associated 'Values in Action' behaviour framework.
<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>	Council received the first draft report of performance against the new KPI set, along with an introduction to the PowerBI dashboard which would be available to Council members through the Strategic Insights Portal. Council endorsed the Key Performance Indicators and reporting schedule.

**Approvals**

<b>Equality Policy</b>	Council approved the new Equality Policy.
<b>Newcastle University Students' Union Constitution</b>	Council approved the revised constitution.

**Reports**

<b>Vice-Chancellor's Business</b>	<p>Council received updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Queen Elizabeth Prize</li> <li>▪ University Rankings</li> <li>▪ Office for Students – Freedom of Speech</li> <li>▪ UKRI Funding Announcements</li> <li>▪ Blyth Festival of Energy</li> <li>▪ Senior Appointments</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 12 March 2026.</li> <li>▪ Summary of the meeting of Senate on 14 January 2026.</li> <li>▪ Report from Finance Committee</li> <li>▪ Report from Partnership Committee</li> </ul>