

**Record of  
Executive  
Decisions  
published  
31/Jan/2024**

**Sunderland  
City Council**

Elaine Waugh  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

City Hall  
Sunderland

31 January 2024

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 31/Jan/2024

**Decision Taker:**

Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

**Date decision in force:**

8 February 2024

**Date of decision:**

31 January 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Treasury Management and Strategy 2024/2025 including Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 – Report of the Director of Finance

**Full description of decision:**

To recommend to Council approval of:

- (i) the proposed Capital Programme for 2024/2025;
- (ii) the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2024/2025 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- (iii) the Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028; and
- (iv) the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2024/2025.

**Reasons for decision:**

To comply with statutory requirements to approve an affordable Capital Programme, Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

No alternative options are proposed for consideration.

**Contact Officer:** Paul Wilson

**Email:** [paul-s.wilson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:paul-s.wilson@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Is this a key decision:**

Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:**

No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

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Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
8 February 2024

**Date of decision:**  
31 January 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Budget Planning Framework and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028– Report of the Director of Law and Governance

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- recommend to Council the proposals set out in the report including the proposed Revenue Budget for 2024/2025 set out at Appendix J;
- recommend to Council the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 including Efficiency Strategy as set out in Appendix G and the potential use of Capital Receipts Flexibility set out at section 9 of the report;
- recommend to Council the proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and more detailed recommendations set out at Appendix F alongside agreeing the other recommendations within Appendix F;
- note the views, if any, expressed by residents, the local Business Sector, Trade Unions and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee; and
- recommend to Council the adoption of the updated City Plan 2024-2035 including the indicative timeline.

**Reasons for decision:**

To comply with statutory requirements to approve a balanced budget for the coming financial year.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

There are no alternative options recommended for approval as the budget has been developed on the basis of an agreed framework with consultation carried out at appropriate times during the process.

**Contact Officer:** Paul Wilson

**Email:** [paul-s.wilson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:paul-s.wilson@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

Councillor Scott declared an interest as a Governor of Hetton Primary School

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8 February 2024

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31 January 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**  
Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2023/2024 – Report of the Director of Finance

**Full description of decision:**  
To note the overall position in relation to the Collection Fund (Council Tax) for 2023/2024 and the Council's share of the surplus.

**Reasons for decision:**  
Estimating the Collection Fund balance available at 31 March 2024 for use in setting the Council Tax for 2024/2025 is a legal requirement, which the Council must fulfil, based on information available to it as at 15<sup>th</sup> January, each year.

The Council also has an obligation to notify its major precepting authorities of the estimated surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund within 7 working days of when this calculation has been made.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**  
There are no alternative options, the Council must comply with its legal requirements.

**Contact Officer:** Paul Wilson

**Email:** [paul-s.wilson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:paul-s.wilson@sunderland.gov.uk)

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<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

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**Decision Taker:**  
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**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
8 February 2024

**Date of decision:**  
31 January 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Grant Funding to Support the Homeless Drop-In Service – Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

**Full description of decision:**

To approve the award a grant for 2024-2025 to Oasis Aquila Housing trading as Oasis Community Housing for the continued and extended Homeless Drop-in Service to a maximum of £113,758.

**Reasons for decision:**

The provision of a Homeless Drop-in service by the voluntary sector within the city has been identified as a valuable service in response to those homeless and sleeping rough.

The Homelessness Health Needs Assessment identified the Homeless Drop-In as a key point of service access and support for those homeless and was highlighted to support their well-being.

The Homeless Drop-In service is a key function and service activity in response to the homelessness issues in the city and the provision of the Homeless Drop-in supports the wider Homelessness Reduction and Sleeping Rough Strategy and its approved Action Plan. Oasis Aquila Housing have advised that following a reduction in donations that they would no longer be able to continue to support and deliver the service.

This grant funding will ensure a continued and extended Homeless Drop-in service up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025(up to 5pm) which is critical in ensuring appropriate access and support services for homelessness.

As the grant is over £50,000 Cabinet approval is required under the Council's constitution.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The option of Oasis Community Housing reducing its opening hours and days opening were considered to align with available secured funding through its charitable donation activity, however due to the growing demands on homelessness services this reduction in service was discounted and the

provision of grant funding was seen as the most appropriate way forward to meet the service needs in the city.

**Contact Officer:** Graham Scanlon

Email: [graham.scanlon@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:graham.scanlon@sunderland.gov.uk)

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<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	No
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

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**Date of decision:**  
31 January 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**  
Investment Zone – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**  
To:

- (i) Note the proposals in relation to the North East Investment Zone (NEIZ), including the inclusion of the International Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Site (IAMSS) as an IZ Tax Site;
- (ii) Approve the inclusion of IAMSS as a IZ BRR Site, noting the agreed NEIZ Business Rates Reinvestment Strategy (attached at Appendix 1) and for the Council to enter into an agreement with the Combined Authority in connection with the IAMSS BRR Site on such terms as approved by the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Executive Director of City Development and the Leader;
- (iii) Authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Director of City Development, Director of Finance and the Leader, to finalise the elements of the NEIZ proposal specific to the Council in conjunction with the Interim Chief Executive Officer for the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA); and
- (iv) Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Leader, to acquire by agreement such land and/or rights as required to secure the comprehensive delivery of the IAMSS in accordance with the NEIZ objectives.

**Reasons for decision:**

The North East was invited to bring forward an IZ proposition when the policy was announced by Government in March 2023 alongside 8 other English areas. The sectoral focus of the NEIZ (Clean Energy & Green Manufacturing) is closely aligned with a key sector for the city and wider region. The combination of tax benefits for companies locating and expanding at IAMSS, the access to resources to support targeted interventions in Infrastructure, Skills and Innovation as appropriate, and the additional resources which can be secured as a result of BRR provide a significant opportunity to stimulate further business investment and economic growth within the IAMSS and the wider NEIZ. This is expected to bring benefit both to the city and its communities and to the region as a whole.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The alternative option would be not to agree to the designation of IAMSS as a BRR Site as part of the NEIZ proposal. However this would reduce the overall funding available over time to support growth of the NEIZ sectors and low carbon economy as it would reduce the potential for business rates to be retained and deployed within the city and wider region.

**Contact Officer:** Catherine Auld

Email: [catherine.auld@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.auld@sunderland.gov.uk)

<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
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<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None



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**Date decision in force:**  
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**Title and author(s) of written report:**

North East Screen Industries Partnership – Inter-Authority Agreement –  
Report of the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- (i) Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City, to approve and enter into an IAA in connection with NESIP in relation to the period 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 on the terms as set out in this report and such other terms as may be approved; and
- (ii) Approve a financial contribution of up to for the period 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 to support NESIP pursuant to the terms of the above agreement.

**Reasons for decision:**

A MoU was signed between the BBC and the North East authorities in September 2021 in relation to NESIP. This set out a partnership vision and mutual investment targets by BBC and the North East authorities over a five-year period to promote the development of region's cultural and creative industries, through the strategic development of the local TV and screen industry and skills. In order to continue to deliver the required step-change in the growth of the screen industries sector across the North East it is essential that investment continues to be committed by all of the North East authorities as a whole and in a collaborative way to deliver a sustainable eco-system.

It was agreed that Tees Valley Combined Authority ("TVCA") would fulfil the role of Accountable Body for the North East authorities in relation to NESIP. An IAA is now required between the North East authorities to ensure the respective roles and responsibilities (including the mutual funding obligations) of the individual North East authorities involved in the partnership are clearly set out, and the associated governance and financial responsibilities are clear.

The IAA will initially operate between TVCA, the North of Tyne Combined Authority ("NTCA") and the four authorities within the North East Combined Authority ("NECA Authorities"), including Sunderland, for the period up to

2023/2024. With effect from 2024/2025 the intention is that the IAA will be novated by the NTCA and the NECA Authorities to the proposed new North East Mayoral Combined Authority (“NEMCA”) to then operate for the remainder of its term up to the end of 2026/2027.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The alternative option would be to not enter into the IAA. However, this would be contrary to the strategic objectives and targets of the MoU signed in 2021 (including the delivery of the North East authorities’ commitments under the MoU) and would stifle the growth of the region’s TV and screen industry and skills development.

**Contact Officer:** Catherine Auld

Email: [catherine.auld@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.auld@sunderland.gov.uk)

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8 February 2024

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**Title and author(s) of written report:**  
Homeless Accommodation Provision – Report of the Executive Director of  
Health, Housing and Communities

**Full description of decision:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Reasons for decision:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Contact Officer:** Graham Scanlon

**Email:** [graham.scanlon@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:graham.scanlon@sunderland.gov.uk)

<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
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<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

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**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Letting of Space at Sunnyside Leisure – Report of the Executive Director of  
City Development

**Full description of decision:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Reasons for decision:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Contact Officer:** Peter McIntyre

**Email:** [peter.mcintyre@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:peter.mcintyre@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Is this a key decision:**

Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:**

Yes

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None